



Jordan Times

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Baker bows out of State Department

DALLAS (R) — James Baker was sworn in on Sunday as White House chief of staff. Mr. Baker, whose resignation as secretary of state became effective on Sunday, was sworn in by an administrator in a non-ceremonial event. Mr. Baker is to play a key role in Mr. Bush's reelection campaign. His job will be to lay out an agenda for a second Bush term and use it for campaign themes. Mr. Baker returned to Washington after the Republican national convention in Houston.

Algerian Islamists attack after setback

ALGIERS (R) — Gunmen shot dead an official on Sunday hours after security forces said they killed one of Algeria's deadliest Muslim fundamentalist hit men when they wiped out a gang of 10 gunmen last week. The official APS news agency said three men shot dead an official appointed to run a local authority in Badjarah near Algiers' fundamentalist Kouba area. It was the third armed attack since Wednesday's annihilation of 10 gunmen in a three-hour battle with the security forces' battle against fundamentalist extremists (see page 2).

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Khamenei says West will fail

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has predicted Western influence in the Gulf and Central Asia will collapse and Islamic principles will prevail, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said Sunday. He was addressing a group of senior government officials including President Hashemi Rafsanjani. "No doubt, in the confrontation between Islam and global arrogance, the latter will be brought down to its knees because Islam relies on the innate nature of human beings," Ayatollah Khamenei said. "As long as we adhere to Islam and Islamic principles, neither America nor other powers can harm our nation." The speech came on the eve of "government week," which commemorates the anniversary of the 1981 Tehran bombing deaths of President Mohammad Ali Rajai and Prime Minister Mohammad Javad Bahaonar. IRNA said Ayatollah Khamenei also "called for further services for the deprived masses of the society."

Pakistan, India to discuss glacier

ISLAMABAD (R) — India and Pakistan have agreed to high-level discussions on pulling back troops from a disputed Himalayan glacier, the world's highest battleground, a senior Pakistani official said on Sunday. Defence Ministry secretaries of the two sides will meet in late October or early November to sort out differences on redeployment of troops, Foreign Ministry Secretary Shaharyar Mohammad Khan told reporters. India and Pakistan had agreed to disengage their troops on the 6,000-metre-high Siachen Glacier in disputed Jammu and Kashmir state as early as 1989. But Mr. Shaharyar said "certain difficulties" had cropped up, delaying implementation of the agreement.

Algeria urges return to Western Sahara peace plan

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria, a long-time supporter of Polisario Front guerrillas fighting for independence of Western Sahara, has called for a return to a U.N. peace plan to settle their 16-year conflict with Morocco. The official news agency APS quoted Foreign Minister Lakhdar Brahimi as saying in an interview late on Saturday: "The position of Algeria is firm, clear and constant. We want peace on the basis accepted by the Moroccan and Saharan brothers." The peace plan has foundered on disagreement over who should vote in a referendum allowing Saharans to choose between independence and integration with Morocco.

U.S. troops deployed in Kuwait

KUWAIT (AP) — The U.S. military announced Sunday that all 2,400 American soldiers scheduled to take part in month-long exercises with Kuwaiti forces were now deployed in the country. The approximately 1,000 U.S. soldiers taking part in desert manoeuvres will be moving into positions near the Iraq border just as the United States, Britain and France declare a "no-fly zone" in southern Iraq.

19 killed in Kurdish attack in Turkey

ANKARA (R) — At least 19 people were killed in an unprecedented two-day uprising by hundreds of separatist Kurdish fighters in the southeastern Turkish town of Sirnak last week, Turkey's Anadolu news agency said Sunday. It quoted Regional Governor Unal Erkan as saying three soldiers, a policeman and 15 civilians were killed as up to 700 guerrillas of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) fought troops and police on Tuesday and Wednesday. Rebel casualties in the battle were not known. It was the PKK's biggest urban uprising since launching its campaign for an independent Kurdish state in south-east Turkey in 1984. The agency said troops arrested some 400 people in a house-to-house search of two-thirds of the buildings in Sirnak after the fighting and imposed a curfew on the inhabitants.

Palestinian team gets U.S. pledge for official status

Agreement to be worked out in Washington

By Sana Atiyeh

Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — The Palestinian delegation and support staff to the Middle East peace talks arrived in Amman Sunday afternoon on their way to Washington after receiving an American commitment that an agreement between the Palestinians and the Israelis would be drawn up in the U.S. capital to ensure that the Israeli authorities would treat the Palestinian delegates as an official delegation with immunity and respect, according to Palestinian sources involved in the peace process.

The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told the Jordan Times that the 28-member Palestinian team agreed to leave the occupied territories to head for the sixth bilateral peace talks after the U.S. promised such an

agreement. The sources declined to give the details of the projected agreement, but said that it would "guarantee the delegation's rights in the treatment by the Israeli authorities as an official delegation which enjoys immunity and respect."

The U.S. promised, the sources said, that the delegation would be treated by the Israeli authorities as they were when they first went to last October's Madrid conference, which launched the Middle East peace negotiations. He added that this included the support staff.

The Palestinian team turned back last Friday from the King Hussein Bridge after the Israeli authorities insisted that five of the support staff under the age of 35 sign a document that bans them from returning for nine months — a procedure that dele-

gates say had never taken place with the staff before. This measure was seen by the Palestinian negotiators as Israel's continued efforts to place obstacles and restrictions to "demoralise" the team and their negotiating position.

Palestinian negotiators and advisors have complained that their treatment by Israeli authorities on the King Hussein Bridge kept deteriorating over the past 10 months. "In the end, they started treating them worse than regular citizens," commented a Palestinian source.

When they crossed the bridge on Sunday afternoon, however, the Israeli authorities made an effort to treat the team as a delegation without the usual delays and harassments, according to Palestinian negotiator Ghassan

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Israel announces relaxation in occupation measures ahead of talks

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israel announced relaxation of some of its occupation measures against Palestinians Sunday ahead of a new round of Middle East peace talks scheduled to begin in Washington on Monday. The measures include loosening restrictions on Palestinians entering Israel, the release of about 500 Palestinian prisoners, and reopening Palestinian homes and streets sealed by the army, the office of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said.

"The prime minister and defence minister, Yitzhak Rabin, decided after discussions about the general situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and preparations for peace negotiations, on a number of steps to improve the

atmosphere among the Arab population in the West Bank and Gaza Strip," a statement from Mr. Rabin's office said.

It continued: "Such steps have been taken in the past." But the latest moves appeared timed to create a positive backdrop for the first peace talks since Mr. Rabin took office last July promising real progress in the negotiations.

The new measures are: — Palestinian residents of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip aged up to 60 previously needed special permits to enter Israel proper. The age limit drops to 50.

— Some 800 Palestinian prisoners who have completed two thirds of their terms will be re-

leased. Each case will be considered individually. Prisoners jailed for violent attacks that caused casualties will not be part of the deal.

— Streets the army sealed in Palestinian areas during violent clashes will gradually be reopened.

— Houses sealed by the army at least five years ago will be reopened for residency. Each case will be considered separately.

"These steps have been checked with all elements of the security authorities in charge of fighting terrorism and will be carried out gradually," the statement said.

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Boycott mars Lebanon's first general elections in 20 years

BAALBEK, Lebanon (Agencies) — Lebanon held its first general election in 20 years on Sunday with minority Christians staging a boycott and a protest strike and accusing Syria of using the vote to tighten its grip on the country.

With polling confined to the north and east of the country, voters in Lebanon's second largest city of Tripoli flocked to cast their ballots in a generally peaceful atmosphere.

But in the Christian town of Baalbek and in the eastern Baalbek area isolated snuffles and accusations of cheating coloured voting, which takes place in the capital Beirut next Sunday. Lebanon's Syrian-backed pres-

ident, Elias Hrawi, was among the first to vote in Zahle.

"I call on all Lebanese to participate in these elections... because their unity is the only guarantee for Lebanon's survival," Mr. Hrawi, a Christian, told reporters.

The general election, the first since 1972, has touched off the most serious crisis since civil war ended, just as the country was embarking on the road to recovery.

Thousands of Lebanese troops imposed tight security as polling stations opened for voters to choose 51 members of parliament from 265 candidates. A total of 800,000 people were eligible to vote for 51 designated Christian

and Muslim seats.

In the eastern Baalbek area the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God), fielding candidates for the first time since its formation in 1982, and supporters of Shiite Muslim House Speaker Hussein Huseini accused one another of vote-rigging.

Security sources said intruders destroyed ballot boxes in the village of Israel.

Polls opened at 7 a.m. (0400 GMT) for 10 hours.

At midday, a fistfight broke out between supporters of two Maronite candidates, Roy, Hrawi's son, and Khalil, the president's nephew, in Zahle's Hosh

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King receives get-well messages and calls

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein now recuperating at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, after surgery, has received telephone calls and cables from heads of state of Arab and foreign countries wishing him speedy recovery and continued health.

The telephone calls and cables came from Sheikh Isma Ben Salman Al Khalifa, emir of Bahrain, Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, Lebanese President Elias Hrawi, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, Speaker of the Palestine National Council Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh, Dr. Hamed Al Ghabid, secretary general of the Organisation of Islamic Conference, Kamel Sharif, secretary general of the Islamic Council for Relief, and Rawhi Khabib, Arab mayor of Jerusalem.

The King also received cables from Pope John Paul II, Queen Elizabeth of Britain, and King Juan Carlos of Spain.

A host of cables and telephone messages also came to the Royal Court in Amman from Jordanian citizens in Jordan and abroad (see page 3).

The King underwent surgery Thursday at the Mayo Clinic. Doctors said Saturday the King was doing well and continuing recovery.

The King himself called His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Prime Minister Shafiq Zaid Ben Shaker on the phone to reassure them of his health condition.

The King is expected to remain in hospital for a few days.

World shifts helped boost monetary reserves — Nabulsi

AMMAN (J.T.) — Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi has said Jordan's foreign exchange reserves now stand at higher than any time in the past as a result of a careful policy helped by shifts in the international monetary market.

Dr. Nabulsi, in an interview with Jordan Television in a programme presented by Dr. Jawad Al Anani, said the Kingdom was seeking to stabilise the exchange rate of the Jordanian dinar rather than fixing it at a certain rate.

Dr. Nabulsi said the CBJ policy cannot prevent daily changes in exchange rates, which in its turn will affect the Jordanian currency.

"We have pledged to have a stable exchange rate, but even stability is affected by various economic conditions. We cannot prevent the daily insignificant changes and that is what we demonstrated during the past

League welcomes Iraqi offer to let parliamentarians visit south

Combined agency dispatches

ARAB LEAGUE Secretary-General Esmat Abdul Meguid praised an Iraqi offer to allow parliamentarians from U.N. Security Council member states to visit southern Iraq on a fact-finding mission.

"If what the news agencies have reported is true, that Iraq has offered to receive a delegation from the U.N. Security Council... that offer is important and positive," Dr. Abdul Meguid told reporters at Cairo airport.

Iraq's Parliamentary Speaker Saadi Mehdi Saleh on Saturday repeated an offer to allow parliamentarians from Security Council states to check on the welfare of Shiite Muslims living in the south where the West plans to set up an air exclusion zone.

"(The offer) would show the desire of the Iraqi government to dispel all the accusations levelled at it and we hope that there is a response to this so that the region avoids military operations, which we do not need," Dr. Abdul Meguid said.

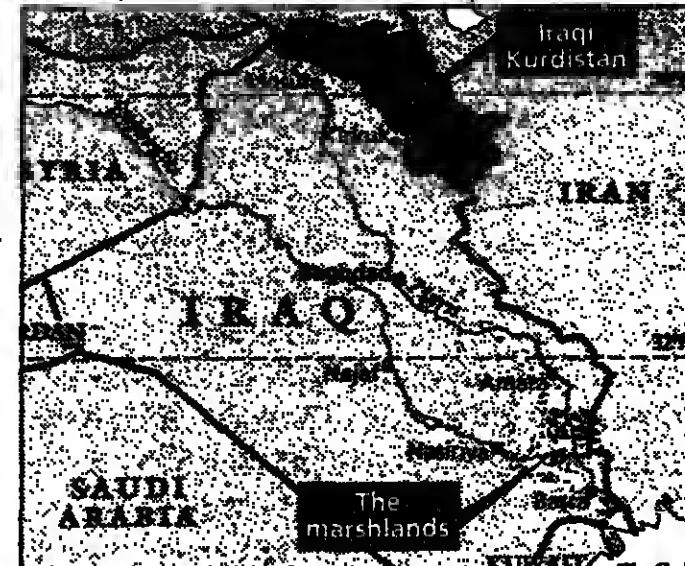
On Saturday, Iraq flew journalists to a southern settlement within the planned exclusion zone.

No violence was witnessed by foreign journalists.

President Saddam Hussein has sent senior members of his Baath Party to the south to muster public support against the Western plans.

Official newspapers said three of President Saddam's closest aides, including Defence Minister Ali Hassan Al Majed, were touring Shiite cities below the 32nd Parallel, the area the United States, Britain and France are expected to start patrolling from Tuesday.

The government wants to avoid



repeating its experience in the north, where a similar exclusion zone helped break its control of Kurdistan.

"The Iraqi people are one people, they cannot be split along sectarian or racial lines," Mr. Nejm told reporters after the meeting.

"The division of Iraq will reveal regional powers that will endanger the security of the Arab Gulf and the Arab World."

He urged Arab countries to warn the United States, Britain and France of the dangers that could result from carving up Iraq.

"This move will allow neighbouring countries to send in terrorist elements... there are training camps within the Iranian borders ready for operations in case of such a division."

Algeria and Yemen have added their voices to a growing chorus of Arab support for a unified Iraq, saying any attempt

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House debate on law on press to end this week

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament Sunday continued its discussion of a draft law on press and publications beginning with Article 17 of the 59-article legislation and listening to the views of a number of deputies concerning amendments.

Dr. Majed Khalifeh, who heads a House committee entrusted with drafting the law, read out Article 17 which states that:

"A responsible director of a publishing house or a research and studies centre or opinion poll centre or director of a translation centre or/and advertising offices and printing press or a library should have the following qualifications:

1. "He should be of Jordanian nationality.
2. "He should not have been convicted for a criminal offence or violation of morals.
3. "He should have acquired a university degree with ade-

experience acceptable to the minister (of information), especially if he is to be head of a studies and research or opinion poll or translation or advertising centres.

4. "He should have obtained a high school degree with sufficient experience acceptable to the minister (of information) if he is to be head of a publishing or distribution centre or head of a printing press or library."

"Deputy Salim Zoubi proposed that amendments be introduced to the article. He was backed by two other members.

Commenting on the debate, Minister of Information Mahmoud Sharif defended the government's views concerning Article 17, noting that apart from having a university degree the head of one of the institutions mentioned therein should have acquired experience in his field.

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'Unrecognised' journalists launch battle against JPA's monopoly

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The current debate in Parliament on a draft law on Press and Publications has rekindled an old dispute between Jordanian journalists who are not members of the Jordan Press Association (JPA), and officials of the association, throwing further doubt into the whole future of the profession as practised in Jordan.

The draft law has been looked upon by many journalists as the last real opportunity to break JPA monopoly over defining who can or cannot be called and considered a professional journalist.

According to the association's law, only those who have trained with a local newspaper for a certain period of time can become members of the association. The training period varies according to the academic degree and educational background of the applicant. This stipulation has excluded

many practising journalists who work with weekly or monthly magazines in the country and are registered outside Jordan or with foreign publications. The exclusion also involves journalists who do meet the association's conditions but feel that they want to operate independently of the association and should not be forced to become members of JPA.

JPA President Sulaiman Qudah admits that there are flaws in the laws and regulations which define who is or is not a journalist, but he rejects the idea of allowing journalists to practise the profession without being registered in the association.

"We admit there are flaws," Mr. Qudah told the Jordan Times in commenting over the rising controversy. "But they are not in the new press and publications law, they are in the association's law and we aim to change that very soon."

One article of the new draft law which was cleared by the Lower

House last week, qualified the definition of a journalist as someone who is a member of the association despite a recommendation from the House's Judiciary Committee to consider all those who practise journalism as journalists.

In not accepting the recommendation of the panel, the House was bending to pressure from the association to give it the upper hand in picking journalists in the country under the pretext of giving associations the "democratic" right to organise theirs as in other countries, many journalists believe.

The association, according to sources, is in fact considering rewriting its own law, which is supposed to come up for debate during the House's next regular session in the fall in order to make room for what is described as "associate members" who would be allowed to operate as journalists but would not be given voting rights in the association. However, such a measure,

although outwardly benevolent, would leave that jurisdiction in the hands of the association and would ensure that the same circle of journalists would maintain control of its affairs and keep journalists with new ideas from influencing its makeup many journalists interviewed by the Jordan Times said.

The newly elected president of the JPA argued that his association "cannot allow different sides whether it be the government or newspapers to decide who is a journalist or not."

"The authority to do that has to be limited to one party and that can only be the association," Mr. Qudah maintained.

Yet many journalists as well as members of the government disagree with Mr. Qudah and insist that giving this authority to any one party is in contravention with the basic constitutional right to freedom of speech and the right to work granted to every Jordanian.

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Around 40 journalists demonstrate Sunday in front of Parliament protesting Lower House's amendments and approach to the Press and Publications Law. Photo shows House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat expressing sympathy with the journalists and trying them to press for their cause. The

journalists held placards and distributed leaflets with their demands. A few deputies expressed solidarity with the journalists but some turned their faces away as they sped through Parliament gates (photo by Youssef Al 'Alham)

Settlers and Rabin government in new battle for Jerusalem

By Ian M. Rose
The Associated Press

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

Unfurling Israeli flags, Jewish settlers pitched a tent in a Palestinian neighbourhood last week to assert their "right" to live anywhere in Arab East Jerusalem.

The opening of the makeshift "information centre," where they display maps of planned Jewish neighbourhoods in Arab sectors, signalled a new stage in the battle over Jerusalem.

After years of support from right-wing Likud governments, the settlers are on the defensive against a government more interested in peace talks than raising more Arab anger over Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is the last name the government of Yitzhak Rabin wants to hear when Arab-Israeli peace talks resume Monday in Washington. It wants discussion of the city put off — forever if possible, but at least until the end of peace negotiations.

Whatever the desires of either side, Jerusalem remains at the centre of the conflict. Israel says the entire city is its "eternal, undivided capital." Palestinians want the eastern part of the city as their own capital.

The dispute involves more than politics. The Old City contains the Jews' Wailing Wall, the Muslims' Dome of the Rock and Al Aqsa mosque, and the Christians' Church of the Holy Sepulcher.

Both Israelis and Palestinians see the city as central to their history.

"Part of fulfilling the Zionist dream is to live in Jerusalem, especially its ancient sections," said David Lev-Tzoo, 26, a student at the Ateret Cohanim seminary dedicated to moving Jews into Arab neighbourhoods.

For Jews, it is the capital of ancient Israel, site of the first and second temples. Many Arab families trace their history in Jerusalem to before Saladin, who recaptured the city from the Crusaders in 1187.

"Jerusalem sums up the con-

tinuous Palestinian history," said Hanan Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks. "It forms the economic, cultural, political and spiritual centre of Palestinian life."

Since it occupied Jerusalem in 1967, Israel has built Jewish suburbs around the Arab quarter. About half of Jerusalem's 370,000 Jews live in these suburbs, surrounding the city's 150,000 Palestinians.

In recent years, settler movements also have taken over homes in Palestinian neighbourhoods, especially in the Old City, going against a tradition of separate Christian, Muslim and Jewish quarters. About 18,000 Muslims, 5,300 Christians and 2,300 Jews live in the Old City.

Until now, Jewish groups seeking to take over or build homes in Arab quarters had government backing, especially that of the former Housing Minister Ariel Sharon.

Since Mr. Rabin took over in mid-July, however, his government has shelved two housing projects to repay \$2.3 million in government loans and sued settlers occupying two houses in the Muslim quarter.

Mr. Rabin also established a cabinet committee to investigate all transactions involving purchase of East Jerusalem property by Jews in recent years.

Police Minister Moshe Shaleh said the previous government may have misused funds. Housing Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer told the daily Maariv its aim had been "to drive Arab residents out of these neighbourhoods."

The settlers and Israel's political right are fighting back. Mr. Sharon, who "owns" a house in the Muslim quarter that police guard 24 hours a day, got enough signatures to call a special parliamentary debate for Tuesday about government policies on Jewish settlement in Jerusalem.

Settlers moved five Jewish families into houses in the Muslim quarter while Mr. Rabin was in the United States.

trying to convince President George Bush he was limiting settlement in the occupied territories.

On Wednesday, a group called the Forum for Jerusalem put up the tent in the Arab neighbourhood of Al Tur on the Mount of Olives. Members say they will raise private funds to buy Arab homes if the government cuts off financing.

One of them, legislator Hanan Porat of the National Religious Party, said: "People who say that Jews shouldn't live in all parts of the city are supporting segregation."

Palestinians claim discrimination, based on court rulings that prevent them from living in the Jewish quarter and give them little hope of regaining property their families once owned in West Jerusalem. About 25,000 Arabs lived in what is now the Jewish area before Israel was created in 1948.

While the settlers say their actions are meant to ensure Israel retains its hold on East Jerusalem, a desire of almost every Israeli, some Liberal Israelis argue that the settlers' methods only feed resentment among the Arabs.

Teddy Kollek, the Israeli mayor, has persistently criticised the settlers and argued for better treatment of Arabs, both in the Old City and in Arab villages Israel took over when it "expanded" the city's "boundaries" in 1967.

"When an Arab lives in a small village without sewage and next to it lies a modern Jewish neighbourhood on property that once belonged to his father and his grandfather, it isn't easy," Mr. Kollek said in an interview with Maariv.

Still, settlers say they will not let either the city government or Mr. Rabin's cabinet stop their effort to gain a tighter hold on Arab parts of the city.

"We'll work slowly; it may take 50, 100, 200 even 300 years," Mani Dan, a leader of the Ateret Cohanim settler movement, told Israeli Radio.



HEADED FOR WASHINGTON: Palestinian spokeswomen Hanan Ashrawi, flanked by Palestinian Ambassador to Jordan Al Tayyeb Abdul Rahim, speaks to the press in Amman after arriving from the occupied territories. The Palestinian team for peace talks was due to leave for Washington Monday (photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

Lebanese 'symbol of unity' is now at centre of rift

BEIRUT (R) — The Lebanese parliament, the only political institution that held rival factions together through 15 years of civil war, has now become a bone of contention between them.

For the first time since Lebanon became independent in 1943, many Lebanese are questioning in advance the legitimacy of the new assembly for which voting started in the north and east of the country on Sunday.

The main Christian groups are boycotting the elections in protest at voting while Syrian troops still control Beirut.

They say that even if they took part the Syrian military presence would produce a parliament to serve Syrian interests.

The outgoing parliament was elected 20 years ago and the civil war, from 1975 to 1990, made new elections impossible.

Thirty-one of the original 99 members died over the years, either by assassination or natural causes.

But throughout the worst of the fighting, Lebanese agreed that parliament's neo-classical building, on the old "green line" which split the capital into sectarian halves, was one of the few national symbols they had left.

The assembly pressed on with legislative work even as its laws were largely ignored in the religious fiefdoms which took the place of a central government.

The only serious disruption was in 1989, when rebel General Michel Aoun announced he was dissolving parliament, just as it was about to elect a new president.

But with the new crisis over Syrian influence, both in parliament and in the country as a whole, the fate of even this institution looks uncertain.

"They are hitting an essential symbol which has safeguarded the unity of Lebanon and its national reconciliation," said Karim Pakradoni, secretary-general of the Falange Party, the main Christian Party. The Falange opposes the elections.

"The parliament was the only institution in Lebanon which preserved the legitimacy and unity of the country. Everything else — the army, government, public institutions and ministries split during the war," he told Reuters.

It was the members of parliament, seen throughout the war as moderates trying to tame the excesses of extremist warlords, who helped bring the fighting to an end.

Algerians slay feared fundamentalist hit man

ALGIERS (R) — One of the deadliest hit men hunted by Algerian security forces was among 10 Muslim fundamentalist gunmen killed in a clash last week, an official statement said.

Twenty-nine-year-old Beotiche Djemaa, alias "Toufik," was wanted as the man or accomplice in the killings of 22 members of the security forces, according to the weekend statement by National Security Director Mohammed Tolha.

Djemaa's body was among those of 10 gunmen killed last Wednesday in a three-hour battle in Baba Hassen, 60 kilometres west of Algiers — the bloodiest clash since the fundamentalists were driven underground earlier this year.

The hunt which led 50 special troops, police para-military gendarmes to Baba Hassen was the first coordinated operation by three branches of the security services.

Algerian commentators called the liquidation of the group — blamed for killing 27 police, gendarmes or soldiers in dozens of attacks — a "turning point in the struggle against terrorism."

The struggle against terrorism by the security services is bearing fruit... the example of the 10 individuals shot dead at Baba Hassen provides proof of the successes," Al Mouridjah newspaper said on Sunday.

Foreign diplomats reacted more cautiously saying the no-

Kabul asks U.N. to hand over Najibullah

KABUL (Agencies) — The Islamic government on Sunday asked the United Nations to hand over ousted President Najibullah to stand trial for war crimes. Hours earlier, the last foreign U.N. personnel in Kabul evacuated the city.

The only U.N. personnel remaining in Kabul, wracked by warfare between forces of the Islamic interim government and a renegade rebel faction, are Afghans. They did not immediately respond to the government's request, and a spokesman at U.N. headquarters in New York refused to comment.

Mr. Najibullah, the Soviet-installed president and former head of the secret police, has been hiding in a U.N. compound in Kabul since his attempt on April 16 to flee the city as it fell to rebels failed. The compound is hidden behind high walls topped with coils of barbed wire and guarded by government troops.

U.N. offices have diplomatic immunity from entry by foreign governments, so the new Afghan government may not legally force its way into the compound to seize Mr. Najibullah.

Fighting between the renegade fundamentalist Hezb-e-Islami rebel faction and forces of the interim government intensified Sunday. Rocket barrages crashed into Kabul, hitting homes and causing at least four deaths and wounding about 100 people.

The United Nations has been evacuating its foreign representatives because of the fighting, which has caused more destruction in Kabul in the past four months than during the entire 14-year war the rebels waged to oust Mr. Najibullah's communist government.

At least 1,800 people have been killed, many of them women and children, in two weeks of bloody factional fighting in Kabul, the United Nations said.

Several thousand have been injured since Hezb-e-Islami Mujahideen and government forces joined battle two weeks ago, a senior U.N. official said in Islamabad, Pakistan.

An estimated 126,000 of the 1.5 million residents of the battered Afghan capital have fled, Sotirios Monosouris, personal representative of the U.N. secretary-

general in Afghanistan and Pakistan, said in a statement.

U.N. agencies working in Afghanistan have prepared an emergency package of \$10 million "to address the urgent humanitarian needs of the country arising from the current hostilities," he added.

More than 1,800 civilians have been killed, with a high death toll among women and children, he said.

"Among the 17 hospitals in Kabul, only eight are minimally functioning with 2,403 beds," he said, adding that all had been hit by rocket fire.

The few remaining doctors are unable to provide medical and surgical services due to lack of electricity, water and essential medicines such as anaesthetics, intravenous fluids and bandages.

Food is becoming scarce and prices have soared. The price of one kilogramme of wheat has more than doubled in two weeks and most shops and markets are closed.

More than 100 families are arriving daily at the Pakistan border.

Hours before the Kabul government asked for Mr. Najibullah to be handed over, the last three foreign U.N. officials left Kabul early Sunday on an overland route to Pakistan.

Deputy Foreign Minister Najibullah Lafrate said a letter asking for Mr. Najibullah was delivered to the U.N. offices in Kabul.

Mr. Najibullah has been accused of being responsible, directly or indirectly, for the executions of thousands of political prisoners and the disappearances of as many as a quarter-million people during the civil war.

Mr. Lafrate said the government assured the United Nations in its letter that it would protect Mr. Najibullah while its forces battle the dissident rebels. The Foreign Ministry official said that after peace is restored, the former president would stand trial.

"We will provide security for him until the situation in Kabul improves and then he will stand trial according to international law," Mr. Lafrate told reporters.

In New York, U.N. spokesman Velkays Nongaza said he had no comment on the government's demand.

Iraq unlikely to emerge as Shiite Islamic republic

By Anwar Faruqi
The Associated Press

NICOSIA — The Western plan to bar Iraqi warplanes from southern Iraq will curb Baghdad's control over the majority Shiites but is unlikely to encourage the formation of a fundamentalist Islamic state.

Western nations have been hesitant to aid rebel Shiite groups, some of which look to fundamentalist Shiite Iran for material and spiritual support.

But the coalition is taking a second look at the Shiites, whose rebels fled to the marshes of southern Iraq to escape the army after a short-lived rebellion.

Diplomats from the United States, Britain and France say they will inform Iraq that its planes will be shot down if they venture south of the 32nd Parallel. That will prevent air attacks on the marshes, which are thick enough to prevent Iraqi armour and artillery from entering.

Laith Kubba, a member of the London-based Iraqi National Congress that unites Shiites, Kurds and other opposition groups, has been lobbying for such protection for months. He discounts the idea that Iraqi Shiites would form a state similar to fundamentalist Iran.

"The Iraqi clergy has a tradition and history of more than 1,000 years of being passive, separating itself from the state," said Mr. Kubba, a Shiite. He was one of six opposition leaders who met senior U.S. officials to Washington late last month.

During their March 1991 rebellion following the Gulf war, Iraqi Shiite groups drafted a plan for the future of Iraq, envisioning a secular, democratic and multi-party system.

Mohammad Ali, spokesman, of the Islamic Dawa Party, the largest single Shiite group, said his party and other Islamic groups were not aiming for a fundamentalist state but were "looking for democracy and freedom."

The extent to which Islamic laws and tenets will be enforced in an Iraq controlled by Shiites would depend on the power of the clerics and the degree to which they would compromise with more secular-minded leaders.

Most of Iraq's Shiites, who make up more than 55 per cent of the country's 17.5 million people, live in the south, where some of Shiism's holiest shrines are located.

Shiites comprise about 10 per cent of the world's estimated one billion Muslims. They believe that Ali, the son-in-law and cousin of the Prophet Mohammad, should have succeeded the Prophet as leader of the faith when the Prophet died in 632 A.D.

Passed over in favour of another candidate, Ali fled to what is now Iraq. He lived in Kufa, where he was assassinated by "rebels," and was buried there.

Najaf, thereby conferring holy status on these Iraqi cities. His son Hussein was later slain in battle in Karbala, 75 kilometres away, cementing the

belief that Iraq is the birthplace of the Shiite faith.

Over the centuries, the grand seminaries of Najaf trained many of the Shiites' leading clergy, including Iran's late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. The city flourished as the nucleus of the faith until Saddam Hussein began his rise to power in 1968.

President Saddam, a Sunni Muslim, distrusted the clerics, fearing their access to people from all levels of society could be used to mobilise the masses against his Sunni-dominated government.

Using his Baath Party's secular ideology, he began a systematic crackdown on the Shiites.

They were prevented from practicing many of their public rituals in an effort to ban public gatherings which could be politically charged.

Many Shiite mosques and schools were closed. Several prominent clerics were killed or jailed.

Najaf became little more than the nominal seat of Shiism. Neighbouring Iran, whose 1979 revolution injected new vigor into the faith, took over as the modern-day Shiite bastion.

The death in Najaf two weeks ago of the Shiites' supreme authority, Grand Ayatollah Abul Qasem Khoei, sets the stage for Iran to try to transfer the spiritual focus of the faith to the Iranian city of Qom, another major centre for scholars.

Regardless of whether this happens, Ayatollah's Khoei's legacy may prevail in Iraq.

Curfew on Egyptian town after police kill militants

ASSIUT, Egypt (R) — Security forces imposed a 24-hour curfew on a southern Egyptian town on Sunday to prevent reprisals after police shot dead seven suspected Islamic militants in their apartment hideout during the night.

Security sources said police had shut down the town of Dayrut, about 60 kilometres north of Assiut, as news spread of the killings which brought the number of people slain in Muslim militant-related violence to about 50 since March.

Mohammad Hussein Al Yamani, a state prosecutor in Assiut province, said security forces reported they had shot dead the seven men after obtaining a warrant to search their apartment in Manqabad, which is about eight kilometres north of Assiut.

Local politicians said at least three of the seven, aged between 20 and 22 and mostly students, came from Dayrut and were members of the Islamic Group, the main faction seeking to install a strict Islamic regime by force in Egypt.

It was the highest death toll in a single clash in Egypt since May, when Muslim militants massacred 13 Christians and one Muslim in the nearby village of Manshiet Nasser.

Police said the seven fired at them when they tried to enter the apartment and the ensuing gunfight lasted for an hour. When it was over all seven, described by police as leading members of the Islamic Group, were dead.

It was the fourth time in a month that police have reported finding the corpses of militants after gunbattles in which police did not report suffering any casualties.

Police found two automatic rifles and two revolvers in the flat. Illegal ownership of small arms is common in Upper Egypt.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Israeli Arabs slam U.N., West over Bosnia

NAZARETH (AP) — Israeli Muslims protesting massacres of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina sharply criticised the United Nations and the West for inaction Saturday. The 4,000-strong peaceful demonstration was organised by Israeli Islamic fundamentalist movements affiliated to the Muslim Brotherhood. Most of the placards carried by the 4,000 demonstrators singled out U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali, calling him a "coward" and an "American agent." Another placard read, "superpowers who proved brave in Iraq are suddenly cowards and paralysed." Other placards described the Serbs as Nazis and murderers. Organisers said they were raising money to buy emergency medical aid for the refugees, which they said the Israeli foreign ministry had promised to transport to Bosnia. Israel sent 14 tonnes of food and supplies to the region earlier this week, some of it contributed by private Israeli citizens. Organisers also said they were hoping that Israel's interior ministry would respond positively this week to their request to bring Bosnian orphan refugees into Israel. Few of the demonstrators were from Nazareth itself. About half of the population town where the Bible says Jesus grew up is Christian. Two weeks ago, Arab and Jewish Israelis gathered in the Arab Israeli town of Tira to protest the massacres in Bosnia.

Israel's minister to visit U.S. over scandal

TEL AVIV (AP) — Justice Minister David Libai will visit Washington next month to discuss the U.S. investigation of a \$40 million defence aid scandal involving an ex-Israeli general, a ministry spokeswoman said Sunday. Mr. Libai will head a team of senior Israeli officials responding to U.S. requests to question Rami Dotan, former chief weapons buyer for the Israeli air force, said justice ministry spokeswoman Ety Eshed. The decision follows threats in the U.S. Congress to suspend military assistance to Israel unless American investigators are permitted access to Gen. Dotan. Gen. Dotan was convicted in Israel last year of amassing some \$10 million in bribes and kickbacks on purchases of U.S. equipment. He is serving a 13-year prison term. U.S. officials suspect half a dozen American contractors may have been involved in illegal payments of between \$40 million and \$70 million. The General Electric Corp. has already agreed to pay \$69 million in damages and penalties.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Au Claire de la Lune
18:10 Le Monde Sous Marine
19:00 News in French
19:15 Weekly Sports Magazine
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Close to Home
21:10 Goe to the Dogs
22:00 News in English
22:30 Strange Family

PRAYER TIMES

06:27 Fajr
06:40 (Shari'a) Dala
12:38 Dhahr
16:17 'Asr
19:17 Maghreb
20:39 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetish, Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 637285
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625411
Armenian Church Tel. 630851 Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772611
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623824, 654952
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

WEATHER

It will be fair and winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman Min./Max. temp. 17/29
Deserts 25/37
Jordan Valley 16/33
24/36

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 29, Aqaba 37. Humidity readings: Amman 46 per cent, Aqaba 35 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Mahmoud Amerca 888883
Dr. Nidal Al Dabshi 792625
Dr. Abdel Majid Al Saeed 791405
Dr. Arafat Al Ashtab 625297
Fina pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 776336
Al Azem pharmacy 67035
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsan pharmacy 637660

AMMAN:
Dr. Ahmad Qaan (-)
Al Shamsa pharmacy (775825)

ZARQA:
Dr. Salah Safarini 98296
Khalid pharmacy 983417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 8021
Hotel Complaints 650800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 781111
Complaints 781111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 621018
Repairs 661101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 771111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khald Maternity, J. Amn 642816
Al-Sham Maternity, J. Amn 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 62362
Malhas, J. Amman 635140
Palestine, Shamsan 664774
Shamsan Hospital 669131
University Hospital 843845
Al-Mawardi Hospital 672219
The Islamic, Abdali 6612757
Al-AME, Abdali 6641646
Halish, Al-Muhajreen 771013
Al-Bashir, J. Amman 7751126
Army, Marja 6224093
Queen Alia Hospital 8761115
The Sun Hospital 0998372
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarga Govt. Hospital 09983323
Zarga National Hospital 09905600
The Sun Hospital 0998372
Al-Hilma Modern Hospital 0995990
IBRA:
Prince Basma Hospital 02273555
Greek Catholic Hospital 02272775
De Al-Nasr Hospital 02247100
AQABA:
Prince Hays Hospital 0314111

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:15 Amman (RJ)
06:45 Jeddah (RJ)
07:00 Riyadh (RJ)
07:15 Moscow (RJ)
07:30 Frankfurt (RJ)
07:45 Cairo (RJ)
08:00 London (RJ)
08:15 Moscow (RJ)
08:30 Doha (RJ)
08:45 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:00 Dubai (RJ)
09:15 Bahrain (RJ)
09:30 Amman (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:30 Amman (AL)
06:45 Beirut (ME)
06:50 Dubai (EM)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:15 Amman (RJ)
07:30 Damascus (RJ)
07:45 Moscow (RJ)
08:00 Riyadh (RJ)
08:15 Montreal (RJ)
08:30 Frankfurt (RJ)
08:45 Cairo (RJ)
09:00 London (RJ)
09:15 Moscow (RJ)
09:30 Doha (RJ)
09:45 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:00 Dubai (RJ)
10:15 Bahrain (RJ)
10:30 Amman (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:30 Amman (AL)
06:45 Beirut (ME)
06:50 Dubai (EM)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in file per kg.

Apple (red) 500/320
Banana 500/450
Banana (Mekran) 500/300
Beans 480/300
Cabbage 90/50
Carrot 250/200
Cauliflower 250/180
Cucumber (large) 120/80
Cucumber (small) 250/180
Eggplant 500/350
Garlic 500/450
Lemon 600/500
Marrow (large) 150/100
Marrow (small) 150/100
Onion (dry) 320/160
Onion (green) 150/100
Peas 600/500
Pepper (hot) 600/300
Pepper (sweet) 220/160
Potato 150/100
Sweet Melon 180/120
Tomato 180/120
Watermelon 60/20

FOR THE TRAVELLER

07:30 Amman (AL)

Ministry to regularly test food for traces of poisonous chemicals

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Sunday announced it was embarking on a two-year research programme on chemical pollutants which have dangerous effects on humans, water, air and soil.

A committee in charge of matters related to the pollution of the environment will conduct the programme with the help of the University of Jordan and the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), said Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Razzak Tabeishat.

Dr. Tabeishat, who chairs the committee, announced that JD297,000 have been allocated to finance the programme.

The minister made the announcement at a meeting of the committee held Sunday to review preparations for the commencement of the programme and measures taken by the ministries of agriculture and health to curtail the use of highly-poisonous pesticides in farming processes.

A statement following the meeting said the committee members reviewed recommendations making it mandatory for importers of foodstuffs, particularly meat, to produce a certificate from the country of origin proving that the stuff contains no traces of pesticides above the minimum level acceptable to the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

The committee said it will conduct laboratory tests on foodstuffs samples collected randomly from different areas in the Kingdom.

It said that traces of poisonous pesticides could remain in animals and fat and, for this reason, meat should be tested carefully. Furthermore, it said, poisonous pesticides could appear in mothers' milk and human fat as well as all types of cereals and animal feed and could be trans-

mitted to humans from animals and plants.

In the course of the programme, the committee said it would draw up a list of the most dangerous pollutants found in the samples that would be tested.

The University of Jordan and the RSS will conduct detailed tests at their laboratories to determine the level of traces of pesticides found in all foodstuffs and in canned food as well as cooking oil, the statement said.

It said that the RSS will conduct tests on the effects of the pollutants on dam water, soil, fish kept in the dam reservoirs and drinking water in artesian wells.

Dr. Tabeishat said that the results of the analysis and the tests will be published for the benefit of the public.

He said that researchers will take up to two years to finish their work in view of the numerous samples of products that will undergo tests and analysis.

Swiss envoy arrives in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Swiss envoy arrived in Amman Sunday carrying a message from the President of the Swiss Federation to His Majesty King Hussein on the outcome of the Earth Summit, which was held in Rio de Janeiro last June.

Mr. Pierre Yves Simonin is expected to meet with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and deliver the message to him, Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

Petra said the envoy was also scheduled to hold talks with Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber, Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Razzak Tabeishat and other officials on the creation of a U.N.-sponsored committee to deal with issues related to sustainable development as proposed by the Rio summit.

Switzerland seeks to host the projected committee in Geneva, according to Petra.

Jordanians react with joy to King's recovery, wish him safe return home

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanians received with joy the news about the success of His Majesty King Hussein's surgery in the United States. They expressed their joy through cables of goodwill, contact.

With Jordan Radio and Television, gatherings at provincial governor's offices and cables sent to the Royal Court.

The happy feelings over the success of the operation were expressed by notables, mayors, leading politicians, Parliament members and other prominent public figures in various governorates.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported that people went out into the streets to dance and sing national songs and to distribute sweets to the school children in expression of their joy.

Mohammad Abu Kaff, Madaba mayor, spoke on behalf of the city residents, expressing their

joy over the success of the operation and wishing the King speedy recovery.

Tafleeh Mayor Sulaiman Hreizat paid tribute to the King's efforts at all levels, promising his wisdom, and wishing him a speedy recovery.

Other mayors, parliamentarians and public figures and officials in various parts of the Kingdom were reported by Petra as having expressed great happiness over the recovery of the King and wishing him a safe return home.

Petra said the people of Kura district in Northern Jordan as well as Tribal chiefs in the surrounding area gathered at the district governor's office to express their rejoice over the success of the operation. Notables, who spoke to the district governor, expressed their readiness to offer any sacrifice for the King. Later sent cables of congratulations to the Royal Court.



Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Fathi Abo Taleb voiced the Jordanian armed forces feelings of overjoy over the success of the King's operation.

In a cable he sent Sunday to King Hussein, Field Marshal Abo Taleb said officers and troops in the armed forces pledge allegiance and express deep affection and loyalty to their leader, wishing him speedy recovery.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Saqqa receives Australian delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Supply Mohammad Saqqa met in his office Sunday with a delegation representing the Australian Meat Board. The meeting dealt with Jordan's imports of Australian meat, live sheep and other supplies.

Jordan takes part in atomic energy, electricity meetings

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers announced Sunday that Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Ali Abul Ragheb and the Director General of the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) will take part in a general meeting of Arab ministers responsible for energy and electricity. The meeting, to be held in Damascus in October, will discuss the electric grid linkage between Iraq, Syria, Egypt, Turkey and Jordan. The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources will also take part in the ninth meeting of the Executive Council of the Arab Atomic Energy Agency due to open in Tunis Monday. Ministry Secretary General Assem Ghoshe, who left for Tunis to take part in the meeting Sunday said that the delegates will discuss the establishment of an Arab nuclear science centre in Tunis, among other related issues.

Azraq markets 'refined' salt

AZRAQ (Petra) — The Al Azraq Cooperative Society Sunday announced that it will market its new refined table salt in the local markets as of the middle of September. A spokesman for the society said that the new salt is of an excellent quality and meets international specifications and standards. The society, whose members represent 97 per cent from the Al Azraq district has been operating a salt processing plant since 1986.

HCST holds conference on biological technology

AMMAN (Petra) — The Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST) is currently making preparations for a pan-Arab conference on modern biological technology. A spokesman said that the conference will be held in Amman in April 1993.

JUST hosts seminar on communication systems

IRBID (J.T.) — The University of Science and Technology (JUST) will hold a training course on optical fiber communication systems in cooperation with the University of Ottawa. The course, which is partially sponsored by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), will open on Aug. 25 and last till Sept. 2. Around 50 people will participate in the course which is part of a 5-year cooperation agreement between JUST and University of Ottawa. Under the agreement JUST has been receiving aid from the government of Canada, represented by CIDA, in the forms of summer research training for its staff, sponsorship of Jordanian PhD students at the University of Ottawa, and the provision of materials for communications research in the Department of Electrical Engineering.

Bataineh reviews health services

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Aref Bataineh Sunday met with directors of hospitals and health centres in the Kingdom and discussed with them their needs of medicines and medical equipment. The meeting also reviewed difficulties facing hospitals and health centres and proposed solutions to these problems. The minister stressed the need to facilitate procedures at hospitals and health centres with the aim of providing the best medical services to citizens.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

Exhibitions

- ★ Exhibition of watercolour paintings by Salama Kanaana at Al Maharat House in Umm Al Khamdun village, near the Arabians House Club.
- ★ Art exhibition by Lebanese artist Basma Bstouli at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Grace Ghannoun Khleif at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Ramzi Al Sayyed at Baladna Art Gallery.

Bazaar

- ★ Charity bazaar organized by the society for Palestinian Prisoners at Al Raed Al Arabi school in Shamsat — opening ceremony at 4:30 p.m.

Lecture

- ★ Lecture entitled "Excavations at North Shammeh Bus Stop" by Dr. Graham Philip of the British Institute in Amman for Archaeology and History at the American Institute for Oriental Research (ACOR) — 7 p.m.

Seminar

- ★ Seminar, in Arabic, entitled "Will a political settlement come as Israeli economic domination in the Arab World?" at the Scientific and Cultural Centre of Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation — 6 p.m.

Indian minister stresses Delhi's support for Arab causes

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

RAMTHA — Indian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Endero Faleiro arrived here Sunday overland from Syria for talks with Jordanian officials on the Arab-Israeli peace process and bilateral relations.

Official meetings, including talks with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber are scheduled for Monday.

"I am here to reiterate India's commitment to the Middle East peace process and hope that the ongoing (Arab-Israeli) negotiations would lead to the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolutions 242 and 338," Mr. Faleiro told the Jordan Times shortly after his arrival at the Syrian-Jordan border post of Ramtha, about 100 kilometres northwest of Amman.

"There has been no change in India's consistent support for the Arab causes," Mr. Faleiro said in a reference to New Delhi's decision earlier this year to establish diplomatic relations with Israel.

"We support the implementation of 242 and 338, which call for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories," he stressed.

"We support the Palestinian right to have their own homeland in their land and security and stability for all countries in the region," he said.

"This is the same message I am carrying to Jordan," he said, describing his visit to Syria and Jordan as a "familiarisation trip."

In Jordan, the Indian minister is also expected to focus on economic relations. The trade balance between the two countries is heavily in favour of Jordan, which exported phosphates, potash and related products worth \$161 million to India in 1991, while its imports from India totalled \$75 million.

"We would be looking into ways and means to achieve a better balance in trade with Jordan," he said.

He described Indo-Jordanian relations as "excellent, dating back to many years" and expressed hope that his talks here would contribute to "further strengthening them."

In Damascus, Mr. Faleiro held talks with President Hafez Al Assad and other Syrian officials including Prime Minister Mahmoud Zoubi and Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam.

Mr. Faleiro said his discussions in Damascus essentially covered the same topics that he would discuss in Jordan in addition to specific issues related to India and Syria.

While Mr. Faleiro did not go into details about the political content of his talks in Damascus, sources close to the discussions said the Syrian President gave the

impression that his government did not expect any breakthrough in the peace process before the American presidential elections.

"Syria is determined to ensure that the Arabs are not used as pawns to benefit anyone in the American election race," said one of the sources. "This position appears to have been given additional strength with the (recent) American agreement to grant \$10 billion in loan guarantees to Israel," added the source, who preferred anonymity.

"Syria believes that the loan guarantees have cast serious doubts on the American role as an honest mediator in the peace talks," according to the source.

Alarming as the loan guarantees are, Syria is more alarmed by

the "reaffirmation (by President George Bush) of the American-Israeli strategic alliance," the source added.

Mr. Faleiro extended an invitation to President Assad to visit India, which the Syrian leader accepted, but no date was set.

Mr. Faleiro's schedule in Amman includes meetings with the heads of the international relations committees of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament, Husni Shiyab and Marwan Al Qasem, respectively.

The Indian minister was received at Ramtha border post by the head of the Political Relations Department at the Foreign Ministry Qasem Ghazawi and other senior officials.

Children fund team visits Salt

SALT (Petra) — A delegation representing the International Save the Children Fund met Sunday with Salt Mayor Abdul Razzak Ensour at Salt Municipality and discussed with him the prospect of launching several of the organisation's projects in the city.

The delegation briefed Dr. Ensour on the objectives of the organisation in the field of developing and promoting traditional handicrafts and utilising them in supporting needy families.

The mayor reviewed with the delegation his municipality's cam-

paigns to preserve old buildings in the city.

These measures also included conducting studies in cooperation with Al Salt Construction Corporation and the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) on downtown Salt to define archaeological sites. In it, he said the city is also calling on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) to classify Salt as one of the international archaeological sites.

The delegation then visited several buildings.

Jordan participates in Izmir fair hoping to boost industrial exports

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan is participating in the Izmir International Fair which is due to open on Wednesday and is displaying samples of products from more than 100 Jordanian firms.

Minister of Industry and Trade Abdullah Ensour, accompanied by an official delegation, left Amman for Turkey Sunday to attend the opening of the fair in which Jordan is participating for the first time since the annual event started in 1981.

The Jordanian pavilion at the fair is displaying an assortment of products ranging from electrical appliances to furniture, kitchens, foodstuffs, scent, detergents, chemical products, cosmetics, television sets and cigarettes, among other items.

Officials at the Jordan Development and Commercial Centres Corporation (JEDCO), which organised Jordan's participation in the fair, said that 80 countries are participating in the Izmir event which will last for 10 days.

JEDCO officials said that apart from Izmir, Jordan will participate in international fairs to be

held this year in Damascus, Tunis, Taiwan and Morocco, with the purpose of promoting the sales of Jordanian products abroad.

JEDCO director told the Jordan Times last month that the corporation's ultimate goal is to help national companies market their products in foreign countries.

"International fairs represent a good opportunity for national products to enter foreign markets," said JEDCO Director Rima Khalaf Humaidi.

According to Ministry of Industry and Trade officials, Dr. Ensour will hold talks with his Turkish counterpart on promoting Jordanian-Turkish economic and trade exchanges and on organising the transit of Turkish goods passing through Jordan to the Gulf states.

According to these officials, Jordanian-Turkish trade amounts to \$150 million annually. Jordan imports foodstuffs, meat and cereals from Turkey and sells it phosphate and potash.

In June this year, Turkey and

Jordan signed an agreement opening the way for Turkey to buy more Jordanian potash, phosphate and also aluminium fluoride, phosphoric acid and industrial minerals to adjust the trade balance between the two countries which is heavily in favour of Turkey.

The agreement was reached after a four-day meeting in Amman, and was signed by Dr. Ensour and Turkish Minister of State Erman Sahin.

Amman Mayor Mohammad Bashir also left Amman for Ankara Sunday at the head of an official delegation. Municipality sources said that the mayor and his delegation will conduct talks with the mayor of Ankara on enhancing cooperation between the Turkish and Jordanian capitals.

They said Mr. Bashir plans to sign an agreement with Ankara mayor on the exchange of expertise in city planning and in training personnel in matters related to maintenance, parks, gardens, transportation, roads and the environment.

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

Peace for our time?

By Lancy Salisbury

Special to the Jordan Times

KING HUSSEIN BRIDGE — Minutes before the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks thundered across the rickety planks of the King Hussein Bridge, alone Korean pedalling for peace on his bike was stopped in his tracks by Israeli authorities.

Beneath a high sun, the cyclist appeared like a mirage in the quiet of the midday soporific heat of Shmeh. His red, black, and blue 80th Korean flag snapped in the breeze, and his spokes, clicking as he trudged back the bridge to Jordan, shimmered in the glare.

Tomorrow is another day to try to reach Jerusalem.

Like the delegates, he too is on a mission for peace in the Middle East.

Minutes later, blue Jetta bus carrying the 28 Palestinian dele-

gates sp

backdrop of the sun-seared mountains hiding Jericho.

It roared passed the blue star of Israel, took the muddy water of the River Jordan head on and halted in a cloud of dust at the sandbags of Jordan's monitoring station.

The doors opened and emerged Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi with the accompanying blast of a microphone.

"Everybody came, everybody crossed and we didn't sign a single paper," she told the Jordan Times with a confident smile. Dr. Ashrawi was referring to the Israeli demand last Friday that five of the delegates pen a document in order to leave the occupied territories for the sixth round of peace talks in Washington.

The demand created a two-day delay over what the Israelis called a travel procedure insisted the Palestinians but an "indignity."

But this time the trip went smoothly, with "no interference, no delay, no harassment," the spokeswoman said.

Snaking with her back to the

Israeli outpost perched like a vulture on the mountain top behind, Dr. Ashrawi's sounded jubilation.

The delegation "will be given the status and treatment commensurate with the task... the delegation is very keen and determined to make this a decisive round," she said.

For a split second, imminent success at the next round of negotiations seemed certain.

A bus laden with Palestinians and suitcases trundled across the bridge to the West Bank. In one idling jitney, a driver erupted into laughter as the muffled sound of passengers giggling floated across this border post that has the air of a bus station.

Nearby, banana fronds swelled in the breeze time with the reeds along the river bank as the water disappeared into a thicket of green brush.

Israeli soldiers kicked up dust and milled around sandbags while a shout's distance away Jordanian soldiers and residents learned against a parked black Mercedes nibbling grapes.

One can't help wondering where that pedlar of peace will be tomorrow?

New polystyrene factory established in Jordan Valley

NORTH SHUNEH (Petra) — Director General of the Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO) Saleem Al Lawzi announced Sunday the establishment of a Jordanian company for manufacturing polystyrene crates.

He said the company, with a capital of JD 1 million, will be leasing these crates for farmers as of the next agricultural season.

Dr. Lawzi, who was speaking at a meeting with agricultural officials in the North Shmeh district in the Jordan Valley, said AMO aims to create new markets for Jordan's agricultural produce. He said the organisation keeps initiating programmes to promote agricultural exports and does not place any limitations on exporting these products. Dr. Lawzi said that the volume of annual agricultural exports have totalled 500 tonnes.

Dr. Lawzi said that Jordan's exports to the Gulf states have dropped drastically following the Gulf crisis and the ensuing war. The problem was even aggravated, he said, when some countries started to depend heavily on their local produce, thus creating an agricultural marketing crisis.

Dr. Lawzi attributed "the tomato crisis," which plagued Jordan Valley farmers this summer to the incapability of the Kingdom's tomato paste factories to deal with the surplus. He affirmed that raising the tomato paste plant's capacity would even lead to increasing the area of land planted with tomatoes.

Agriculture Minister Fayez Khasawneh said in a statement last month that a dunum of land can produce up to 5,000 tonnes of tomatoes in average annually, but this year each dunum produced 9,000 tonnes, overloading the local market and the processing plants.

During the meeting, Dr. Lawzi also talked about the cropping patterns, saying the cropping patterns were originally introduced to serve small farmers and to organise the agricultural production process.

Arab-Japanese dialogue to discuss new world order

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Amman-based Arab Thought Forum (ATF) is organising the third round of the Arab-Japanese dialogue in Amman on Sept. 19 in cooperation with the Japanese National Research Institute (NRI).

An ATF statement issued here Sunday said that participants in the two-day meeting will review a host of topics including the ideological, political, economic and legal processes which have led to the creation of the so-called new world order, with particular stress on the distribution of world power.

The meeting will also review the concept of collective security and means for settling the Middle East conflict.

Participants in the meeting are also scheduled to discuss the new world economic order and its impact on Japan as well as the Arab World, the ATF said.

Participants will also take part in a roundtable discussion to de-

bate the role advanced industrial nations play in Third World countries, whether this role entails imposing hegemony or is based on mutual cooperation. The roundtable will discuss the South-South cooperation within the framework of the new world order.

The first Arab-Japanese dialogue was organised by the ATF in Amman in 1989, and the second was held in Tokyo in 1991.

The ATF, which was established in 1981 through the efforts of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent groups Arab and non-Arab thinkers, politicians and scholars from a wide sector throughout the Arab World.

Personalities involved in the ATF represent non-governmental organisation and gather regularly to discuss political, economic and other issues of concern to the Arab World.

JTA holds seminar on stimulating investment

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Trade Association (JTA) is holding a specialised symposium on Sept. 2 to discuss appropriate measures for stimulating future investment in the Kingdom.

An ATF statement said that Minister of Industry and Trade Abdullah Ensour and representatives of the private sector will take part in the meeting.

It said that the symposium will be one more link in a long chain of seminars to be held monthly to lay the foundation for a proper dialogue among the government and the private sector on economic issues in the country. The symposium will be in line with government policies aimed at promoting the role of the private sector in socio-economic development, the statement said.

ATC sources said that each of

the seminars will tackle a specific topic dealing with economic activities involving the private and public sectors. The seminars it said, aim at avoiding all negative aspects now marring the national economy and introducing new positive trends that would promote economic growth in the country.

In a statement earlier this month, JTA President Samih Darwazeh said that his association was mainly trying to market Jordanian products abroad and was striving to find markets in Europe South East Asia Libya and Sudan. Apart from that, he said, JTA was working in cooperation with the Ministry of Industry and Trade, to promote investment mainly in industrial projects.

Jordanian children dance to the tune of Disney Songs

By Lancy Salisbury
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Bored of taking your kids to the amusement park? Next time, tug them along to the Disney Summer Show, a medley of songs, scripts and steps of Walt Disney characters from Mickey Mouse to Mary Poppins.

Created by sisters Bella Nazal, 25, and Shireen Abu Khader, 19, the summer show is performed by 22 students from their first ever Disney Summer Music Camp.

"It's a chance for kids to take over, to create something and then go out on stage and be out in front," said Mrs. Nazal, a 1988 University of Southern California graduate in liberal and performing arts.

The show, at the International Baccalaureate School stage until Monday night, starts off with a teen blackened in soot singing the chimney sweeping solo Chim Chim Cher-ee.

With the sweep of a broom, the programme moves into a medley of famous Disney tunes as performers aged eight to 15 tumble onto stage. From Tweedle Dee to Tweedle Dee to the cool couple of the Aristocats, students sing every thing from Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dah to "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious."

The Little Mermaid and Beauty and the Beast were also performed in the 10 minute production that could only have been pulled off with the energy of children. In their skins and stage sets, the entertainers take you to the rooftops of London, and the fathoms of the sea, and the

flower-potted villages of France. "The beauty of Walt Disney is there are lots of different characters that the kids are familiar with. The music is also versatile, flexible," said Shireen, a music education and theatre major at Oberlin College, Ohio.

The show is the culmination of a month-long music camp where students learn professional theatre and music through song, dance and drama. The intensive JD 90 course concentrates more on children "feeling the beat" than on "sitting in chairs reading books," Shireen said.

"In a way I was more satisfied with the excitement of the children during class than with the production. They really wanted to learn," said Bella, a former teacher at the Orthodox School, who added that the camp offers children a chance to make a break from television and overcome stage-fright.

The two women say they hope to hold the camp next year and are considering plans to either form a club or institution.

"We have lots of ideas for the future. We are in between a club and an institution. A club will give us more freedom to create. An institution may be more restrictive," Mrs. Nazal said.

As the production's closing song, Mickey Mouse March, goes, "now it's time to say goodbye to all our company... M-t-o-see you real soon..."

Tickets costs JD 3 and proceeds go to the scholarship fund of the Ahliyya School for Girls, which cooperated in the production of the cost and designed the show.

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No fly, won't go

THE WESTERN plan to set up a "no-fly zone" in southern Iraq ostensibly to protect the Shiites from alleged genocide by Baghdad has drawn fire from various circles, especially from the Middle East region, and for a good cause. The foreign minister, Dr. Kamel Abu Jaber, condemned the move Saturday and described it as "an attempt to infringe on the sovereignty" of Iraq. "Any move designed to harm the unity of the Iraqi people," Dr. Abu Jaber went on to say, "will shake the stability and security of the whole region."

This is a declaration of policy that cannot be taken lightly. It reflects deep-rooted fears and anxieties by a number of nations around the world that the latest Western move to set up an air exclusion zone in southern Iraq may usher in a new era of Lebanonisation into the Middle East region. That kind of worry may indeed expose the peoples and nations of the region to unprecedented dangers the full consequences of which can never be measured before hand. There is little wonder then that there is a chorus of voices uttered against the Washington-London-Paris move emanating from Turkey, Syria, Iran and other countries. This break with what can easily be described as Western hegemony over the U.N. Security Council could be the start of a chain reaction across the globe. The international community is against Western manipulation of the U.N. system especially when it is intended to prosecute certain dubious policies of capitals like Washington and London.

Against such a backdrop, these Western powers are reeling back from the severe criticism directed at them and appear to have gone on the defensive in explaining their intentions as not aiming to divide up Iraq or Balkanise it. Still, notwithstanding the assurances of Washington and its allies, some capitals appear to be playing with fire by going ahead with unilateral plans to interfere so crudely into Iraq's internal affairs in a brazenly suspicious manner. Shouldn't people ask, for instance, why the human rights situation in southern Iraq should be more important than that in the centre of the country? With the only difference between the Iraqis in the south and in the middle being artificial at best, any attempt to create a rift between the Sunnis and Shiites has to be seen as a dangerous ploy to strengthen sectarianism and religious strife across the entire Middle East and Gulf regions. This part of the world is already a powderkeg over a host of other conflicts. To introduce to the peoples and countries of the region new ominous kinds of strife will endanger even more the future of many generations to come as well as neighbouring areas. The first casualty of any such exacerbation would be the ongoing Arab-Israeli peace process. It would indeed be a tragedy to add fuel to the fire instead of striving to begin a new chapter in the history of the Middle East.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE ISRAELI media and propaganda organs are busy nowadays advocating the idea of maintaining a strong Jewish state with a military power far exceeding those of the Arab countries put together, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Sunday. Israel is justifying this concept as a necessary requirement to stem the powers of Iraq, Iran and Libya and to maintain stability in the region, the paper said. Indeed, such a campaign, coupled with open support from Washington, indicates that Israel is being prepared to take part in the expected aggression on Iraq which is now facing a U.S.-orchestrated campaign for partition, the paper pointed out. The paper warned the U.S. against employing Israel as the bully of the Middle East and against encouraging the Jewish state to launch aggression on Libya or Iraq because, said the paper, this would deal a heavy blow to the whole Middle East peace process. Furthermore, said the paper, any U.S.-led aggression on Iraq can lead to the same consequences and cast a dark cloud over Washington's credibility. Any aggression on Iraq, in the name of the United Nations or otherwise, can only backfire in the form of a series of acts of violence in the Gulf and other areas of the world and could result in the collapse of the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations, warned the daily.

IN HIS desperate attempt to win votes for his reelection as president, George Bush bragged about his success in the foreign arena, begging the American public to forgive him for his failure to live up to their expectations on the domestic front in the past four years, said a columnist in Al Dastour daily. Mohammad Kawash said that President Bush stood before the Republican convention boasting that he came out victorious in the Gulf war, he had starved the innocent children of Iraq through the embargo, helped unify Germany, contributed to the collapse of the Soviet Union and helped bring about democracy in Nicaragua, but he failed to mention a single achievement at the domestic front. At the same time, Mr. Bush apologised for having increased taxes and for having failed to improve the living conditions of the American people, promising he will do better the next time, noted the writer. He said that by bragging about atrocities his troops committed against Iraq, Mr. Bush is trying to ensure success at home and by giving promises, which the American public can never accept or believe in, the president is striving to offset the lead his opponent, Bill Clinton, has made in the opinion polls. The writer said that the Americans, who see their economy reeling all the time and their country leading the world towards the edge of a catastrophe through their president's adventures, know the situation better than that, and they can by no means reelect George Bush.

Weekly Political Pulse

A press law is not justified

The draft law on press and publication is indeed problematical and controversial. The more one goes through it the more it becomes clear that the overall tone of the proposed new legislation is unduly restrictive and punitive. There are more articles in the new law, purporting to govern the regime of publication and the freedom of the press under conditions of pluralistic democracy, that stipulate what the press and mass media cannot do than what they can do. In the same vein, there are heaps of provisions that aim to punish the members of media in Jordan, and indeed outside the Kingdom, if they were "found" to have deviated from the prescribed restrictive guidelines.

By way of a general comment, one wonders whether indeed the country needs a press law in the first place, given the fact that it has ushered in a new and vibrant era of multi-party democracy. I personally found that the theme of the new law is anathema to the spirit of the new parliamentary democracy and wonder if in fact a democratic country like Jordan may actually tolerate the enactment of such a body of laws. This observation begs an even wider observation, to wit, whether a democratic country as Jordan needs a Ministry of Information in the first place.

By and large, ministries of information are features of undemocratic regimes and therefore there is a real cause to question whether democratic Jordan needs a Ministry of Information, much less a press law. A more subtle and democratic way of disseminating information in the country, and in the defense of its policies, is to create informational departments within each and every relevant governmental ministry or department rather than to have one overpowering umbrella ministry purporting to control and supervise the administration of mass media in the country. It would be much more appropriate to the new image of the Kingdom to have public relations sections in relevant governmental ministries and agencies with a mandate to amplify, clarify or

even defend a certain policy or practice related to any such ministry or agency. This broader policy issue related to freedom of press and publication deserves a closer look and examination with a view to determine whether a) the continued existence of a powerful Ministry of Information in Jordan is compatible with parliamentary democracy and b) whether a press and publication law is necessary in a democratic society.

In specific terms, the new law on press and publication is wanting in any case. Take for starters Article 3 which states that free expression of opinions is guaranteed to Jordanians. Does that mean that legal residents of the country who are not Jordanian nationals will be denied such a basic human right?

The contents of such articles as 4, 6, 7, 8 can be better provided for in the laws that govern the Jordanian Press Association as they aim to spell out the functions and duties of the members of the press in general.

Article 9 is very problematical and probably could be struck out in due course as contrary to the Constitution and some of the international treaties that Jordan has ratified. To begin with, its wording is so vague that it calls for judicial interpretation. Till that point in time, the members of the press in Jordan will be at a loss on how to interpret the proscription of publications against principles related to freedom, national responsibility, human rights. Above all, the call by this article for the respect of "truth" and the "principles and standards of the Arab and Islamic nations" are something that no two can agree on in these times when Arabism is all but dead and the Islamic World is wide split on many grounds. The Arab countries are hardly on talking terms, much less in agreement on matters of principles and mores. The fate of the Islamic World is not that much better.

As for article 10, its contents likewise belong to the by-laws of

Jordan Press Association. Moreover, how can one ask of a member of the media to "respect" and "observe" the individual and constitutional rights and freedoms of others. This is something that is usually asked of states not of members of a profession. Articles 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 obviously belong to the laws and regulations of the country's press association. The same goes for articles 30, 31, 33 which are more appropriate to be expressed in the by-laws of the country's press association, civil and criminal codes.

Article 36 belongs again to the laws and regulations of Jordan Press Association.

The purview of Article 42 can also be better taken care of within the framework of the new law on press and publications in view of their nature which is essentially criminal prohibition. In any case, paragraphs 7 and 8 of the same article need judicial construction in due course as they lack clarity. If the intention here is to prohibit defamation and slander, as clearly is the case under paragraph 8 of this article, then the appropriate place for such legislation would be in the civil and criminal codes of the country.

Last but not least, Article 49 of the suggested new law speaks of criminal jurisdiction over all criminal cases arising out of the draft law as belonging to the Court of First Instance. Strangely enough, the draft law is silent on civil responsibilities arising from the application of the new law and is likewise silent on the jurisdiction of the court systems in the country over such matters as if they were not envisaged as arising at all.

It appears therefore that the new law was not well considered neither from a policy perspective nor from a legal perspective. Under the circumstances, the draft law needs to be sent back for reconsideration.

Harvesting billions vs. hospital administration

By Mohammad Zakaria

Before President George Bush approved loan guarantees Israel's request for \$10 billion in to absorb Jewish immigrants from the former Soviet Union, Palestinian and Israeli delegations were going to engage in frantic bilateral negotiations in the sweltering Washington summer heat two salvage whatever had remained of his reelection campaign.

The idea was that each side had a vested interest in avoiding an unpleasant scene: Mr. Bush practicing resume - writing after the November elections. Now that the loans have been approved, however, the Palestinian delegation is in a quandary as to what to do: Should they opt for the Scylla of resuming negotiations under these adverse conditions, or the Charybdis of quitting the peace process altogether, with all the unpredictable consequences this might lead to.

This development, I hope, has not come as a shock to anyone. Rather, it has certainly raised questions regarding the forces affecting Mr. Bush's campaign, the implications of the deal he is reported to have struck with the Israelis, and the standing of the Palestinian delegation.

Personally, I have given up on what could send Mr. Bush's popularity up or down. While preparations were being made for the Gulf war, we were told that the U.S. President's popularity was going to improve a great deal, since he was going to cleanse the American consciousness, once and for all, of the disgrace of the Vietnam defeat. The average American was depicted as suffering through sleepless night after sleepless night fretting over Vietnam. He had to go out to Arabia or Iraq or somewhere to kill someone, or else he would go out on a rampage, take dope and alcohol, drive under the influence, rape, kill, until late, end up homeless after quitting his job, join organised crime, drop high school or if necessary primary school.

Mr. Bush's rating did indeed shoot up after the Gulf war, but then it took a tailspin shortly afterwards. We were told, in explaining this, that the average American was not really interested in what happens overseas, that he had his daily eye on his paycheck, his bills and unemployment. We took this explanation in good faith, since we had to believe the rules of interpretation that were perched atop the Statue of Liberty - beyond our Third World reach - crisp, eternal and unwavering. But then the rules took such a ridiculous turn that even the most naive fourth world among us started scratching their heads. Mr. Bush's popularity this time was going to be uplifted from its bedrock position not by the immediacy and tenderness of any domestic issue, but by granting ten billion dollars to Israel, an overseas state twice over.

We couldn't take this one because not only was Mr. Bush trying to regain his standing in the polls through a foreign policy matter - a matter that a while ago was dismissed as inconsequential for popularity ups and downs - but in the process he was infringing upon a hot domestic issue by using badly needed money for that purpose. In short, Mr. Bush this time was employing a deadly combination of two negative forces, each synergistically compounding the ill effects of the other, to bolster his reelection campaign.

And what about average Americans: those we have just seen weeping themselves to sleep over Vietnam, beating their breasts over the economy? They

could help Mr. Bush by urging their supporters in Congress to approve the loans now, but the possibility is always there that the supporters might delay the approval until after the elections. Neither would the Israelis really

"While preparations were made for the Gulf war, we were told that the U.S. president was going to cleanse the American consciousness, once and for all, of the disgrace of the Vietnam defeat. The average American, suffering through sleepless nights fretting over Vietnam, otherwise had to go out on a rampage, take dope and alcohol, rape, kill, mutilate, join organised crime, drop high school or, if necessary, primary school."

want to use their heavy presence in the press to help Mr. Bush. Of delaying the loan guarantees. Never mind the money; it's the

The man has subjected them to the unprecedented humiliation principle that counts. Mr. Bush has proved that he could have control of Israeli matters if he acted as a full-fledged president. This is too much, since such matters are handled by Israel, not the president. No, the Israelis will not prime a rotten tree.

On the other hand, the Palestinians seem to lack even basic pruning equipment. Their weight in the peace process has been marginal despite local reports about grand media performance. There are specific examples of incompetence that I would like to go over here, for whatever that's worth:

1. Oversimplification: They assumed that the only obstacle in the way to an equitable peace was lack of information on the part of the American people. They just put the case before the American people through the media and waited for everything to fall in place. The American people were supposed to realise how unfair their government was to the Palestinians, and consequently they were supposed to rectify their position by pressuring Israel and according consideration to the Palestinian aspirations. But the Palestinian delegation was ignored for the most part, and when they had the chance they messed up the whole thing, as can be seen from the points below.

2. IGYSOB: Many of them acted as if the Israeli delegation were on trial using the technique of "I got you, SOB." For this to succeed you need an apriori sympathetic audience. But no such audience was to be found, and the approach backfired by projecting the Israeli delegation as the underdog. While the Palestinian delegation hollered over the mike, the Israelis assumed meek postures, with "in-

digence" written all over them.

3. Failure to communicate properly: Despite the hoopla surrounding the excellent language of some of these delegates, it quite often sounded rather stilted by emphasising long and sometimes technical vocabulary, when the objective was to communicate with highly heterogeneous audiences.

A good example is the term "wilful suspension of disbelief" used by Haidar Abdul Shafi in the opening statement of the Madrid meeting. He stumbled over it and stopped after the word "suspension", indicating perhaps that he wasn't sure how the term fitted into his statement.

4. Unclear command structure: At times it was not clear whether the spokeswoman was representing the position of the Palestinian leadership or the leadership was expressing the personal views of the spokeswoman, who proceeded to make statements a la the poll interpretations mentioned earlier. Thus she claimed at the beginning that this was the era of American domination and we had to be part of it, implying that the American position had changed substantially. Then she claimed that substantial change had been made, and that the confederation with Jordan was going to take effect "one month from now," "now" being last January. Finally, to add insult to injury, she announced that if the U.S. were to offer the loan guarantees it would prove to be

not the disinterested party in the peace process it was thought to be. But the net result of the negotiation was quite modest: Run your hospitals. The negotiations under Mr. Shamir came a long way, from irreverence to hospital administration. If the Palestinians of today have the misfortune of being at the hospital administration end of it, they certainly can do without people moving in to cash in on their despair.

5. Feathering your nest locally: The delegates sometimes acted with an eye firmly fixed on the big pie back home. This often turned into unwholesome contests aimed at achieving quick personal glories. In one way, failure to communicate and IGYSOB above can be seen in light of this item.

6. Lack of experience: which sometimes led to indiscreet reactions. A good example is the way they handled Margaret Tutwiler's statement regarding the inclusion of U.N. Resolution 181 in the peace process. Some delegates were quick to agree with that, although 181 goes beyond the scope of the peace process. Although talk about 181 is taboo for the Israelis, their reaction was restrained and professional.

The writer is a professor of English at the Higher College of Teacher Certification in Amman. He contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.

LETTERS

Responsibility pays

To the Editor:

In the article "Water Crisis to Worsen by 2010", (Jordan Times, July 25, 1992), there was a summary of a recent lecture at the Orthodox Club by the director-general of the Water Authority of Jordan, Mr. Aziz Belbeisi.

What inspired me to write this letter was Mr. Belbeisi's call on Jordanians to "save every drop of water."

As an archaeologist, I feel compelled to speak up about a fact I have discovered, namely that earlier generations of Jordanians exercised much more personal responsibility for collecting and storing water than today's.

The evidence for this is the existence of hundreds of thousands of unused cisterns throughout the country. In our archaeological survey of the region between Madaba and Amman, we have found hundreds of cases of ancient cisterns being used as garbage dumps, rather than for collecting and storing water.

In the past people had to rely on cisterns for water security as there was no integrated water supply network. Thus nearly every house, every village, every garden and every orchard was supplied by water from cisterns. Wherever rain fell, it was captured on the spot in cisterns and stored for household and agricultural use.

As Mr. Belbeisi notes, today's integrated supply network is wasteful of water. He mentions, for example, that 30 per cent is "lost to leakage and other problems with the supply network."

What alarms me is how much water is wasted every time it rains because people do not bother to collect it anymore as they used to. Instead of assuming personal responsibility for collecting water in cisterns whenever it rains, people have come to rely on the government to do all the collecting and storing for them.

There is no way, however, that the government can collect all the water which people neglect to collect for themselves. The fact is that most of the water which falls during the rainy season is lost to evaporation and runoff. Only a very small percentage of it helps replenish underground aquifers. Most of what is not collected on the spot where it falls is wasted!

Of utmost importance to Jordan's future water security is that people everywhere be encouraged to assume personal responsibility for collecting and storing water right on the spot where they meant to restore old cisterns and to build new ones. People also need to be given instructions on how to collect water safely and overpumping of underground resources would not be necessary to personal control over their water supply!

Oystein S. Labianca,
American Centre for Oriental Research,
Amman.

Arab-Israeli mistrust permeates peace talks

By Marjorie Oister
Renter

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM - "You can't trust an Arab," according to an old Israeli saying, "even if he is 40 years in his grave."

For a Palestinian, the expression "You are a Jew," is an insult. Arabs return to the Middle East peace table in Washington on Monday to face less hawkish Israeli negotiators following the election of Yitzhak Rabin's Labour government.

But the gulf of mistrust between the Jewish state and its neighbours Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and the Palestinians, seems as wide as ever.

"The peace process itself has not really changed anything. The talks have frozen attitudes rather than worked through them," said Bernard Sabella, a Palestinian sociology professor at Bethlehem University.

Yitzhak Rabin toppled hardliner Yitzhak Shamir in June elections. On taking office, he hinted at new thinking and called for an end to Israel's siege mentality.

"No longer are we necessarily a 'peace that dwells alone' and no longer is it true that the whole world is against us," he said. "We must overcome the sense of isolation that has gripped us for almost half a century."

A few weeks later he lapsed into more traditional rhetoric

saying: "Israel is an island of peace in a sea of hostility."

Israelis and Arabs are prisoners of their own history.

Their victims are remembered as martyrs. Every war and massacre is memorialised. Stereotypes prevail on both sides. Some Israelis think Arabs are treacherous fanatics who want to throw them back into the sea. Some Palestinians see Israelis as aggressive foreigners who stole their land.

After the peace talks began in Madrid last October Mr. Shamir said: "The Arabs are the same Arabs and the sea is the same sea."

This sent a clear message to Israelis - the start of the first talks with all Arab border states had changed nothing.

Breaking down walls of suspicion reinforced by decades of hostility is perhaps one of the toughest challenges of peace-making.

The peace talks have focused on security and territory without addressing the larger question of what ordinary people think.

"We need a phased solution, which can gradually build confidence," said Alouph Har-Even, a veteran of Israeli military intelligence who now heads a conflict resolution institute.

Analysts say Mr. Rabin, a former army chief, is first a military strategist whose priority is enhancing Israeli security rather than promoting mutual understanding between cultures.

Iraq crisis

(Continued from page 1)

to break up the country would affect the region as whole.

Algerian Foreign Minister Lakhdar Brahimi, in a statement carried on Sunday by the official news agency APS after a late night television interview, denounced "any action threatening this unity and susceptible to constitute a danger for the region."

Yemen's president said Sunday the Western plan in Iraq "violates the country's sovereignty and endangers security and stability in the region."

Radio Sanaa said President Ali Abdullah Saleh made the remarks after meeting Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz.

The radio said Mr. Aziz handed the Yemeni leader a letter from President Saddam Hussein on bilateral relations, Arab issues and "the racist, sectarian plots that aim at damaging Iraq's unity and violating its sovereignty."

Yemen's news agency SABA quoted Mr. Aziz as calling for Arab solidarity against "the colonialist Zionist conspiracy... that aims at dismembering the (whole) Arab World."

Mr. Aziz arrived in Sanaa on Saturday.

Journalists

(Continued from page 1)

nian citizen.

Added to that, journalists argue, the market forces of supply and demand should determine who is a journalist accepted by the public. These journalists argue that after the press and publications draft law is approved and other newspapers are licensed the public would be able to determine what is a credible newspaper and who are credible and professional journalists.

Another argument is that when a journalist finds employment with a newspaper or any other media channel, JPA should not be given the right to insist that they also become members of the association. The government, although publicly silent about the House's decision, is privately critical of the House's move but lays the blame on the journalists who, according to one senior official, "failed to fight for their rights."

"Journalists all over the world take up this trade according to their wishes and talents, not by a decision from a sanctioning authority," said a senior official, who asked for anonymity.

Moreover, "(a press) association should not be concentrating its efforts on ways to limit its members and punish those who do not fit their conditions."

The official pointed out that JPA should be concentrating on attracting members through "developing itself to become a body that journalists would want to join."

Mr. Qudah denies that JPA wants to limit its members but admits that they would like to be selective in accepting membership. "We will amend the association's law to allow for a larger membership but we do not want to leave the doors wide open for anybody to join," he said.

In meetings with journalists who contest the JPA control, Mr. Qudah insisted that he is interested in involving all "credible" journalists in the association and that the association's insistence on the current definition of a journalist in the draft law is intended for "organisational purposes."

"We admit that there are flaws," Mr. Qudah stressed, extending an open invitation to all journalists to contribute to the writing amendments to the association's law to allow for involving the largest number of journalists possible as members.

As the JPA law of 1983 stipulates, a journalist is "any person licensed to practice the trade," and that definition is followed with at least six conditions which would make him or her eligible to be a journalist, including academic conditions and training in local newspapers. Most Jordanian journalists have not been able to fulfill the training condition since there are only four daily newspapers and one weekly in Jordan. These, according to editors of these papers, cannot possibly train all journalism graduates in the country.

Many journalists have had training, however, with weekly magazines which are registered outside the country as they await the passing of the new law or with foreign publications but are still restricted from becoming members of JPA.

To counter the House's endorsement of the JPA definition, journalists are meeting and drafting letters to the Upper House of Parliament where the definition can be reversed by senators after attempts to dissuade JPA executives have failed.

Syria, Jordan and Libya have all spoken out against any action that would threaten Iraq's territorial unity. Iran, a base for exiled Iraqi Shiites opposed to the Iraqi government, and Turkey have done the same.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin reassured Israelis on Sunday that Iraqi missile attacks were much less likely now than during the Gulf war.

"In the cabinet meeting, military authorities assessed the risks to Israel at this stage as much less than in the Gulf war," Mr. Rabin said in a statement.

The statement was issued after the cabinet discussed the Western plans in Iraq.

Iraq fired nearly 40 Scud missiles at Israel during the Gulf war in January-February of 1991,

Nabulsi

(Continued from page 1)

U.S., Europe and Japan prompted by the changing differences in interest rates."

Dr. Nabulsi added that these international changes have led Arab and Jordanian investors to channel their capitals to Jordan.

"Investors fear investing in U.S. dollars and they moved capitals into Jordan in the past two years, helping stabilise the dinar's exchange rate," he said.

The movement of funds into the Kingdom was not only caused by the return of about more than 300,000 Jordanian expatriates in the wake of the Gulf war. "This, coupled with retaining confidence in the Jordanian economy and the stabilising of the exchange rates and the investment capabilities in addition to the reform programmes have achieved a lot of their goals and encouraged attracting

causing heavy property damage but few casualties.

Baghdad is still believed to have a stock of the long-range missiles.

The wartime Scud attacks sent Israelis dashing almost nightly into sealed rooms with gas masks on in case the missiles were armed with chemical warheads.

President George Bush is likely to announce this week that the United States and its Gulf war allies are prepared to shoot down Iraqi warplanes if they violate the "no-fly zone," the White House said on Sunday.

"There have been a lot of contacts" about the plan, White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater told reporters.

"We're getting closer to announcing our final position,"

capitals from abroad."

He said as a result of this, a remarkable increase in the assets of the CBJ and Jordanian banks took place, and Jordan's balance of payments has improved significantly and reserves were boosted.

Dr. Nabulsi said Jordan's debts remain almost unchanged — at about \$8 billion. "In fact there was a drop that was not reflected in the figures. We cancelled some of the defence debts which totalled \$1 billion."

There are also two programmes carried out as part of the economic reform programme, and these programmes are those of the Paris and London clubs of creditors, he said. "We have rescheduled our debts with the Paris Club to be paid between 15 and 20 years and there is an attempt to reschedule our London Club debts," he added.

"We might manage to reduce our debts to the London Club to about 35 to 40 per cent of their real value," he said.

Lebanon

(Continued from page 1)

Al Umara neighbourhood.

As television crews were filming the fight, the contestants lunged at the journalists and tried to seize their equipment.

Footage aired by Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation, the station run by Christians' main militia, showed the candidates' supporters trying to block the camera lenses with their hands or threatening the journalists with empty paint buckets.

"They attacked us like wild beasts," said reporter Nana Faisal from Zahle.

Christians, arguing that the election is a plot by Syria to impose its will on Lebanon, observed a strike for the third day.

In mainly Christian east Beirut cars bore black ribbons as a sign of mourning.

Christians wanted the government to delay the election until

Syrian troops leave Beirut and some other areas in September in line with a 1989 peace accord signed in the Saudi resort of Taif.

A final attempt by Christians to win Syrian backing for the postponement of the elections failed. Many of the Christian voters, about 700,000 out of a total electorate of two million, were expected to abstain.

Some villages in northern Lebanon boycotted the poll on Sunday with witnesses saying only a few people voted.

In the northern village of Bicharr, graffiti and slogans condemned the elections.

"These elections were cooked and rigged in Syria," said Jibril Rahmei, a Christian. "The candidates are picked out by Syria."

Lebanon's highest Christian religious authority, Patriarch Nasrallah Boutros Sfeir, urged Christians to fight the challenge through faith and belief in the justice of their cause.

But political analysts said the boycott left the field clear for pro-Syrian Christians to win seats uncontested.

he said.

Mr. Fitzwater said Mr. Bush himself was likely to declare the "no-fly zone," though the form of his announcement was still undecided because "he wants to explain to the American people what it is he's doing."

Asked when Mr. Bush's statement would come, Mr. Fitzwater said: "Most of the speculation has been on Tuesday but it could slip (back in time)."

The U.S. aircraft carrier Independence headed up the Gulf on Sunday ready to help enforce the ban.

The Independence, one of about 20 U.S. warships in the Gulf, sailed from Abu Dhabi's Port Zayed towards Kuwait after five days of shore leave for its 5,000 crew.

Relaxation

(Continued from page 1)

The statement expressed the hope that "they will have a positive contribution on the willingness of the Palestinian population to support the progress of the peace negotiations."

The Palestinian delegation left for the talks on Sunday after a two-day delay caused by a dispute with Israeli authorities.

The matter was settled when the United States assured the Palestinians Israel would not harass them at the crossing from the West Bank into Jordan.

Israeli Deputy Foreign Ministry Yossi Beilin said Israel was bringing new proposals to the talks, opening a rare opportunity to reach progress.

"As somebody who knows what Israel will present tomorrow, I believe that a very, very rare opportunity has presented itself, for the Arabs and us, to advance the political process," he told Israel Radio.

House debate

(Continued from page 1)

He said inaccurate information and studies by inexperienced and unqualified people could create confusion for the public. Any wrong information coming from centres which conduct opinion polls or surveys concerning political or other issues might be misleading and confusing to the public, the minister said.

For this reason, he said the government insists that such conditions are vital and must be met by those responsible for such centres.

At the outset of the session Sunday two newly-elected members, Anwar Hadid and Mohammad Azadeh, were sworn in.

Parliament will convene Monday afternoon to continue discussions. It said that in accordance with a Royal Decree the current extraordinary session will end by Aug. 26, 1992. By then, the statement said, debate on the press and publications law would have been finalised.

Palestinians

(Continued from page 1)

Al Khatib. None of the team members signed any document, he said.

The Palestinian team was assured by the Americans on Sunday noon on three matters before it decided to head for the Washington talks, Mr. Khatib said.

In an interview with the Jordan Times after the delegation's arrival in Amman, Mr. Khatib said that they were told by the U.S. that the Israelis had taken a decision to improve the treatment and status of the delegation.

"We were also told that a detailed agreement between the two sides would be worked out on the peripheries of the coming round of talks with U.S. mediation within the one-month framework. And we were informed that the five sides did not have to sign the document, with guarantees for their return," Mr. Khatib said.

The Palestinian participation in the next round of talks, which starts today in Washington, might begin on Tuesday at the earliest after the delegation leaves Amman today.

U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Roger Harrison met with chief Palestinian advisor Faisal Husseini and negotiator Saeb Erekat for one hour at the Philadelphia Hotel yesterday morning, but he declined to comment on the outcome of the meeting.

Mr. Husseini also refused to comment on the meeting. But Dr. Erekat said that "we put the

U.S. ambassador in the picture," and that Palestinian delegates were in contact with the American consulate in Jerusalem before the delegation's departure.

Mr. Husseini said that the manner in which the Israelis placed the conditions on the five sides "makes it unclear for how long they will continue to treat the delegation as individuals."

"And it has created a real obstacle for the delegation to continue its work," Mr. Husseini told the Jordan Times in his hotel room after his meeting with the American ambassador.

According to Palestinian sources, the Israeli occupation authorities had wanted to treat the negotiators and their staff as "individuals with extra rights," but the delegates insisted they be treated as an official delegation with diplomatic status.

"Since Madrid, we faced many difficulties as a Palestinian delegation on the bridge, and the conditions would get worse each time we left or returned," Dr. Erekat told the Jordan Times.

For example, in the first few months of the mid-east peace talks, the Israeli authorities would not even open the delegation's luggage. Dr. Erekat said. "But the last time we returned, they emptied all our personal luggage and put our clothes in plastic bags in a very awkward manner."

He also cited that, in the beginning, it hardly took the delegation any time to cross the river, and that lately it has taken long hours of procedure. On one occasion, four advisors were turned back from leaving the occupied territories and two negotiators

were arrested. The Palestinian delegation, Dr. Erekat said, will reject any such treatment from now on.

Dr. Erekat rejected accusations that the Palestinians were delaying the peace talks. He blamed the Israeli authorities for the delay. "We did not want to delay this process for even one minute, especially that it is part of an Arab decision taken in Damascus last week to attend this round on time," he said.

The negotiator accused Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of verbally saying one thing and doing another.

"Rabin speaks in English about peace and accelerating the process," Dr. Erekat said. "Then in Hebrew, he gives orders to his officers on simple procedural matters that delay the departure of the delegation."

The Palestinians' priorities for discussion with the Israeli delegation in Washington will be the issue of settlements in the occupied territories, Jerusalem and the Israeli endorsement of the Fourth Geneva Convention, according to Dr. Erekat.

"Settlements and Jerusalem are number one on our agenda," he said. "Israel wants to finish the building of 11,000 housing units

in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and 14,199 units in and around Jerusalem."

Dr. Erekat said Mr. Rabin should decide whether he wanted to continue building settlements or to continue with the peace process. "Twenty-five thousand housing units mean finalising the status of the land outside the negotiating room and that Israel is imposing a fait accompli which undermines the peace process."

He added that the other main issue the Palestinian delegation would discuss with Israel is Palestinian human rights and Israel's endorsement of the Fourth Geneva Convention. Dr. Erekat described these two issues as preparatory steps for the negotiations to continue on the interim self-government period in the occupied territories.

Other items on the Palestinian agenda include:

— The nature of the interim period and linking it to the final status of the occupied territories and defining the source of authority;

— Transfer of authority to the Palestinians through general political legislative elections in the occupied territories under international supervision to ensure orderly and peaceful transfer.

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Middlesbrough crushes Leeds 4-1

LONDON (R) — Newly-promoted Middlesbrough crushed Leeds United 4-1, inflicting the first defeat of the season on the champions, while Coventry beat Wimbledon to move clear at the top of the English Premier League.

Oldham joined in the goal spree, thrashing Nottingham Forest 5-3, but Manchester United picked up their first point of the season with a struggling 1-1 draw at home to Ipswich.

Kenny Dalglish's millionaire new boys Blackburn continued their fine start with a 1-0 victory at home to Manchester City thanks to a 69th minute goal from Mike Newell.

Norwich lost their 100 per cent record, held 1-1 at home by Everton, leaving Coventry — who struggled to avoid relegation last season — as the only side with three wins from three games after they won 2-1 at Wimbledon.

Leeds, who snatched the title from Manchester United in the final stages of last season, were rocked by two goals in the eighth and ninth minutes from Paul Wil-

kinson, courtesy of crosses from Tommy Wright who also scored in the 47th.

John Hendrie put Middlesbrough 4-0 up in the 59th minute before French international striker Eric Cantona scored a consolation goal 10 minutes later.

Coventry, revitalised by new manager Bobby Gould who guided Wimbledon to F.A. Cup glory in 1988, took the lead after just 13 minutes through Micki Gynn.

They made it 2-0 when Robert Rosario fired through goalkeeper Hans Segers' legs 20 seconds after half time.

Norwich, who formed an unlikely front-running duo with Coventry, remained second on goal difference after coming back from conceding a 55th minute goal to Everton's Peter Beardsley with a 69th minute strike from Ruel Fox.

Manchester United faced a third successive defeat when they were behind to Chris Kiwomya's 56th minute goal but fullback Denis Irwin scored two minutes later.

Queen's Park Rangers moved into third place with a 3-2 victory over Sheffield United earned seven minutes from time by Dennis Bailey's winner.

Sheffield strikers led the Premier League's goalscoring chart with United's Brian Deane grabbing his fourth of the season against Rangers and Wednesday's David Hirst hitting two for the second time in two games.

Wednesday, third in the league last season, drew 3-3 with Chelsea after throwing away a 2-0 halftime lead and needing an 81st minute strike from Danny Wilson to claim a point.

Vinny Jones, Graham Stuart and Edward Newton had put Chelsea ahead after the break in a 15-minute burst.

Gordon Durie scored Tottenham's first goal of the season while goalkeeper Eric Thorstvedt saved his second penalty in four days, but Spurs needed a last-minute goal from Steve Sedgley to earn a point in a 2-2 home draw with Crystal Palace.

Tottenham's new captain Neil Reddick and Palace's Andy Thorn were sent off after 68 minutes for fighting.

Oldham stunned Nottingham Forest with three goals in the final 14 minutes of the first half from Neil Adams, Graeme Sharp and Nick Henry and strode to a 5-0 lead with two more from Gunnar Halle and Paul Bernard

by the 59th.

Forest finally responded with three goals in the last 24 minutes, two from substitute Gary Bannister and a penalty by England defender Stuart Pearce.

Aberdeen went top of the Scottish Premier League on goal difference with a 2-1 home victory over Dundee as Celtic battled to a 1-1 draw at Glasgow rivals Rangers.

Aberdeen recovered from the shock of a seventh minute goal from Dundee debutant Gary Patterson, signed from a junior soccer side for £1,000 (\$1,900) and a set of track suits in midweek.

Striker Duncan Shearer scored Aberdeen's equaliser and Finland's Mikko Paatelainen hit the winner.

Celtic, the only unbeaten side in the Scottish Premier League, went ahead through Gerry Creaney in the 53rd minute but substitute Ian Durrant equalised 16 minutes later to keep Rangers a point off the pace.

Stuttgart score

first win

BONN (R) — Bayern Munich beat Kaiserslautern 1-0 and up-held the only 100 per cent record in the German soccer first division after just two matches.

Bruno Labbadia netted the 20th-minute goal which took Bayern clear at the top as the fortunes of the great Munich club looked brighter after their disastrous last season when they went through three trainers and finished a dismal 10th in the Bundesliga. "We saw a very good first division match in the first half, controlled by my team," Bayern trainer Erich Ribbeck said after the home win. "In the second half we never regained that certainty and came under heavy pressure." Fritz Walter, top Bundesliga marksman last season, scored twice to lead defending champions VfB Stuttgart to a 3-0 home win over Nuremberg.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Seles, Sanchez Vicario reach Montreal final

MONTREAL (R) — Top seed Monica Seles and second seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario fulfilled expectations Saturday as they posted straight set victories to advance to a final round meeting at the \$550,000 Canadian Open women's tennis championships. World number one Seles reached her 26th final in her last 27 tournaments over the last two years with a 6-3, 6-4 win over eighth-seeded American Lori McNeil. Fifth-ranked Sanchez completed her march to the final without the loss of a set by bouncing seventh seed Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia 6-2, 7-5. The Spaniard will attempt to avenge last week's semifinal loss to Seles in Los Angeles. "Last week I made 43 unforced errors," said Sanchez, who has failed in 10 attempts to beat Seles. "I was tired from the Olympics — not physically, but mentally. I was not fresh. I feel much better now."

Sampras, Courier set for Indianapolis final

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana (R) — Defending champion Pete Sampras clawed his way to a three-set victory over Boris Becker and Jim Courier struggled past a pesky Todd Martin as the top seeds set up a final round showdown at the U.S. Hardcourt Tennis Championships. Second seed Sampras rallied for a dramatic 6-7, 6-2, 7-6 win over third seed Becker as he continued to play himself into top form ahead of the U.S. Open, which begins in nine days. Sampras, U.S. Open winner in 1990, will be going for back-to-back titles Sunday after his victory at the ATP Championships in Ohio last week. World number one Courier needed over two and a half hours and two tiebreaks to down the 125th-ranked Martin and reach his first final since winning the French Open. "We practise a lot together and he's always tough. It's just a few points here and there," said Courier, who took the tiebreaks 7-5 and 7-4 to keep Martin from his final. "Today it went my way," Courier said. "Tiebreakers are really a roll of the dice." Sampras and Becker battled fiercely for two hours and 28 minutes in a rematch of last year's final here. "This was a match that could have gone the other way," acknowledged Sampras.

Ederg reaches Volvo semis

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut (R) — Malivi Washington followed his win over John McEnroe with a quarterfinal upset of second seed Goran Ivanisevic and top seed Stefan Ederg fought his way out of trouble and into the semifinals at the Volvo International Tennis Championships. Eighth-seeded American Washington, who has climbed to 16th in the world, handed Wimbledon runner-up Ivanisevic a 6-4, 7-5 thumping to take his place in the final four. Washington next faces unseeded Frenchman Fabrice Santoro, who pulled off the day's other big upset when he bounced Czechoslovak fourth seed Petr Korda, the defending champion and this year's French Open runner-up, 7-6, 4-6, 6-3. Fifth seed Ivan Lendl secured the other semifinal berth and will take on Ederg after a 6-3, 7-6 win over third-seeded American Michael Chang. Lendl, who became a U.S. citizen last month, had his serve working against the speedy Chang and took a tense second set tiebreak 9-7.

Lopez retains WBC title

CIUDAD MADERO, Mexico (R) — Mexico's Ricardo Lopez retained his World Boxing Council (WBC) straw weight world title when he knocked out former kick boxer Singprasert Kittakarn of Thailand one minute into the fifth round of their scheduled 12-round fight. It was Lopez's fourth successful defence of his title and his 30th win in 30 professional fights. Kittakarn was left senseless for several minutes after Lopez floored him with a crushing left hook but was later led back to his corner and appeared to have recovered. "The Asian boxers are all strong but they lack technique," Lopez said after the bout, cheered by a strongly partisan crowd in his home state of Tamaulipas in northern Mexico. An elegant, nimble fighter, Lopez asserted his mastery over the scrappier Thai from the first round, landing a crumpling left to his head seconds before the bell.

Juventus defeats Russia 2-1

TURIN, Italy (AP) — English midfielder David Platt scored with three minutes remaining to give Italian first-division power Juventus of Turin a 2-1 victory over Russia in the Baretto Trophy Soccer Tournament. Platt's goal avoided a penalty shootout, provided by the tournament rules as a tie-breaker. The win gave Juventus three points in the four-team competition, in a first-place tie with Fiorentina of Florence which trounced the U.S. national team 4-0 in the opener at St. Vincent Friday night.

Thunder Rumble wins Travers Stakes

SARATOGA SPRINGS, New York (AP) — Thunder Rumble exploded through the stretch and posted a 4 1/2-length victory to become the first New York-bred in 125 years to win the Travers Stakes. In joining Ruthless (1867) as the only New York-bred to win the prestigious stakes for 3-year-olds, Thunder Rumble finished the 2 kilometers (1 1/4 miles) in 2:00 4/5, equaling the third-fastest time in the history of the prestigious stakes race for 3-year-old thoroughbreds.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY AUGUST 24, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Make it a point to find out exactly where you stand moneywise in relation to your property and possessions. Planning everything in a methodical manner turns today into a constructive time...

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) There is a good chance you will be able to get some excellent suggestions from an expert how you can be more successful by a more well rounded course of action.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You need a more well rounded plan in order to gain those aims that means so much to you and after a slow start they are now obtainable.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Your interest in a greater amount of forward activity in the outside world can wisely animate you so study your various options to gain this.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Whatever new goals are in the back of your mind can be brought to the surface now with a good chance you can make them operate as you wish.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Think about what you can do to have a better arrangement for both handling money and property interests and get experts to give you the benefit of their views.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) This is the day to make sure you are not critical but are more

aware of that your understanding but sensitive partner expects of you and do what pleases that person.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Take note of your surroundings and look for ways to put more charm and operative skill about so you will be more comfortable and more productive.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A fine day for you to consider what entertainment and recreations in which you can engage that will bring considerable pleasure without emptying your pocketbook.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) If you avoid an early sarcastic comment this can be a fine day in which to communicate your wishes to others that can have beneficial results.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Consider looking into the various sources where you can gain better informed data than in usual ways and you can extend your present knowledge.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You would be wise this day to concentrate upon a better awareness and plan of action for making your assets more profitable and enduring.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) This is your day to be just as personal and subjective as you wish and go after those personal desires that animate you with courage.

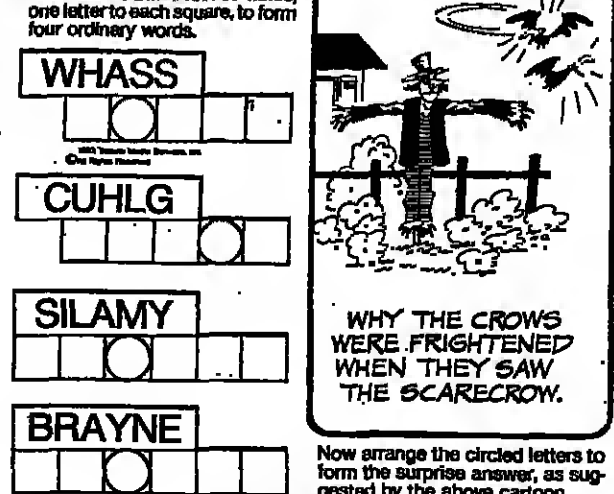
THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"I don't know my husband's size, but he's shaped like the stuff inside a lava lamp."

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Print answer here: " " " " (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: AROMA PARCH CLAUSE RUBBER
Answer: A rolling stone gathers no moss—but sometimes this—RE-MORSE

THE Daily Crossword by Harold S. Counts



ACROSS
1 Grid
5 Stuffed, in cooking
16 Carousing
14 Charles LeBorg
15 New York city
18 Periman of "cheers"
17 Color
18 Ways
19 Comic Sahl
20 Legal matter
21 Burge
22 Dance
23 Apply again
24 Loss to ODE
27 Ray flower
29 Walkie-talkies
33 Taxi
36 Yearning gulf
37 "Yankee Doodle"
38 Explode
40 West
41 Gambling game
43 Military student
45 At any time, to coo
46 Fun place
48 Centerpiece
52 Good luck charm
55 "Tin Tin"
56 Wine
57 Address Black
58 — the bill (pay)
59 — ditch (arbitrary statement)
60 Correct
61 Country samples
62 Luck
63 Sleeps
64 Copycat

DOWN
1 Paris subway
2 Stranger
3 Wish cycle
4 "Krazy"
5 — jolly good fellow
6 Knock for
7 Bring up
8 Unpleasantly
9 Extra sheets of a kind
10 Former golfer Tommy
11 Depict
12 Certain alloy
13 Horse feed
21 Four years for a president
22 Golf item
24 Utters
27 Aspire to
28 Fly high
29 Early morning time
30 Pupils' org.
31 Affirmative
32 Gambling cubes
33 Prisoner
34 Opp. of syn.
35 Tiger
36 Turk, bigwig
38 Unit of pressure
41 Kind of sandwich
42 Rellies (on)
43 Colored in a way
44 TV alien
46 Deceit
47 Succinct
48 Happening
49 Cluster
50 Tinkles
51 Come in
52 Bowling item
53 Disabled
54 In
56 Mark's title

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GOREN BRIDGE
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Both vulnerable. South deals.
NORTH
♠ 7 5 3
♥ 8 4 3 2
♦ Q 9 5
♣ A Q 7
WEST
♠ K 10 8
♥ J 10 9 7
♦ 6 2
♣ J 6 4 3
EAST
♠ Q 9
♥ A Q 6 5
♦ 7 4 3
♣ K 9 6 2
SOUTH
♠ A J 6 4 2
♥ K
♦ A K J 10 8
♣ 10 5
The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass Pass
Opening lead: Jack of ♠
The theme of avoidance—keeping the danger hand off lead—was first broached by two great British writers, Terence Reese and Albert Dormat. It was the pivotal technique on this hand.
North had a close decision between a response of one spade and a spade raise. Over one no trump South would have shown the diamonds, then bid the diamonds again after partner's spade preference as a game try. With an ace, a key queen and three spades, North would have had just enough to jump to four spades. On the actual sequence, South was willing to take a

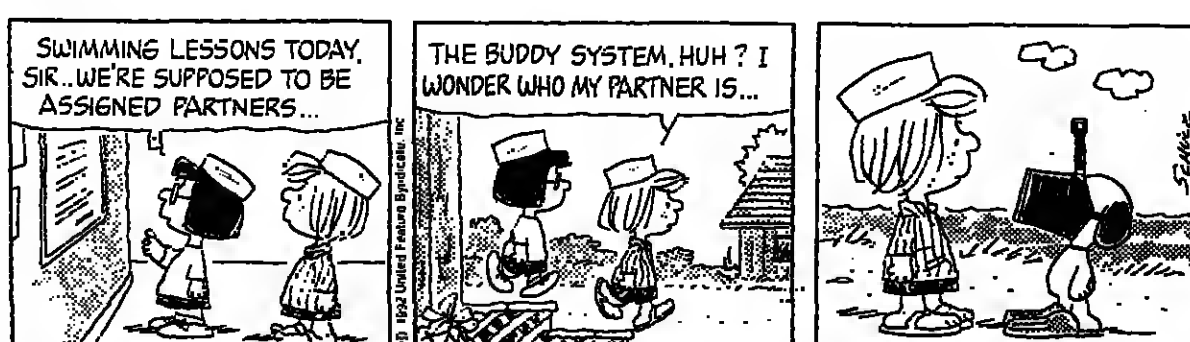
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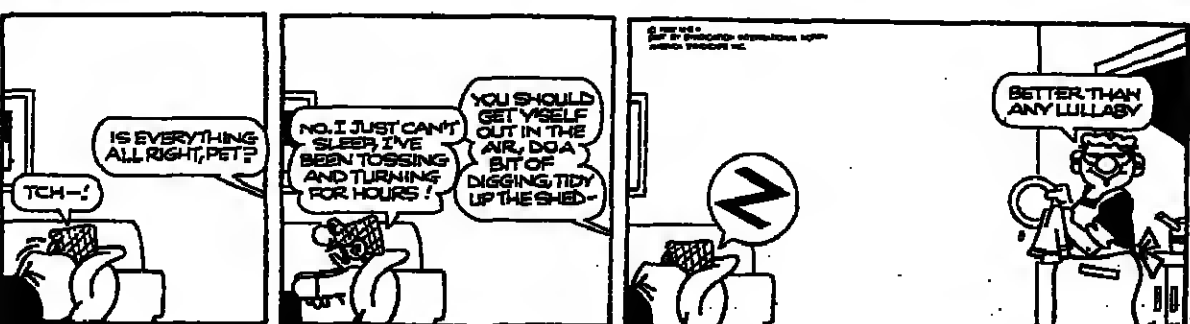
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Foreign Exchange Market Summary (August 17-August 21, 1992)

AMMAN — While market sentiment was steadfastly negative towards the dollar, trading remained cautious during most of last week, as dealers awaited another round of concerted central bank intervention. As this intervention materialised at the end of the week, the U.S. unit, ironically, dropped to a new historic low against European currencies. The dollar finished the week an average of 2.6 per cent lower against European currencies but only marginally lower against the yen.

Trading started listless and directionless Monday before heading on a gradual cautious down-trend during the next three days. On the one hand, the previous Friday's hopes of a no-near term German Lombard interest rate hike faded as Bundesbank Council members contradicted a similar statement by the Deputy President to that effect. The German officials were reported to have said that the Bundesbank would not refrain from raising the internationally-important Lombard rate if it becomes clear that the last discount rate increase was not sufficient to achieve the required slow down in German money supply growth. They further added that the bank would not consider an interest rate cut until money supply growth drops by 50 per cent and inflation falls below three per cent annum.

But with expectations almost unanimous on the possibility of another central bank intervention ahead of the U.S. Treasury's refunding, the majority of traders refrained from taking short dollar positions. Talk of renewed military action against Iraq, and the dollar's proximity to its all time low of 1.4430 marks, further added to the market's anxiety on Monday and Tuesday.

The U.S. currency rebounded briefly Wednesday on positive U.S. Trade figures, before declining again.

While the dollar was still on a down-trend Thursday, it dropped at the end of the week against European currencies to a new record low of 1.4290 marks, despite central bank intervention.

In fact, a number of market analysts blamed the intervention for exacerbating the dollar's decline by miscalculating the timing of their intervention. Having expected such an intervention, most traders did not have substantial short dollar positions outstanding, while others had actually gone long hoping to take profits when the intervention took place.

Consequently, as the dollar fell below 1.4430 marks Friday, the first round of intervention pushed it initially to 1.46 marks.

But traders took the lack of follow-through short covering by market participants, typical in usual surprise interventions, as the required signal to sell. Bouts of dollar selling hence materialised, despite further attempts by central banks to support the U.S. currency, which only served as technical selling opportunities for traders.

The past week's developments have left market observers baffled. After the dollar fell to an all time low, many commented that the market is currently in previously uncharted waters and that discerning short term direction has become a difficult task. Some observers believe the dollar could fall as low as 1.38 marks, while others see it rebounding to 1.55 marks in the short term.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	14/8/92	21/8/92	Percent Change
Sterling Pound	1.9215	1.9550	1.74%
Deutsche Mark	1.4645	1.4290	2.48%
Swiss Franc	1.3210	1.2710	3.93%
French Franc	4.9675	4.8595	2.22%
Japanese Yen	125.97	125.81	0.13%

USD Per STG

Euro-Currency Interest Rates

Currency	14/8/92	21/8/92
U.S. Dollar	3.25	3.56
Sterling Pound	9.87	10.12
Deutsche Mark	9.75	9.68
Swiss Franc	8.06	8.25
French Franc	10.06	10.31
Japanese Yen	4.06	3.50

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.666	.668
Sterling Pound	1.3025	1.3090
Deutsche Mark	.4658	.4681
Swiss Franc	.5242	.5268
French Franc	.2371	.2378
Japanese Yen	.5299	.5325
Dutch Guilder	.4153	.4154
Swedish Krona	.1276	.1282
Italian Lira	.0611	.0614
Belgian Franc	.02258	.02269

Per 100

China looks to open gold industry as output rises

BEIJING (R) — China's gold output rose by 18.5 per cent in the first half of 1992, but officials say the state must relax its tight grip over the industry if growth is to continue, reports in the official media say.

This year's output increase — which follows an average 15 per cent rise over the past three years — showed "the gold industry is overcoming problems such as shortages of money, raw materials and labour," the official People's Daily has said.

China never releases actual gold production figures, which have long been regarded as an important state secret.

But industry officials now say this attitude must change. They are trying to persuade the government to open China's gold fields to the world.

Seeking fresh capital and expertise, they have worked out a package of reform measures which would open the gold industry to foreign investment, particularly in exploration and mining.

Cui, Dewen, vice director of the State Gold Administration, said the planned reforms would "beef up production and push the industry toward the market economy," the official New China News Agency said.

"Releasing the gold industry from traditionally tight control is crucial because only by doing so can direct foreign investment be made possible," the agency quoted Mr. Cui as saying in a report.

Mr. Cui said on-going state control of the gold industry was squeezing China's gold producers, caught out by the quick introduction of market-style reforms in other sectors of the

economy. "The industry must sell its gold to the state at fixed prices, which is only about half of the market price. But it has to purchase raw materials, fuels and electricity mostly at higher market prices," the New China News Agency said.

"The difference has made many gold producers suffer from high production costs but low profits, which dampens their enthusiasm," it added.

The gold administration's reform package would allow foreign investors to put money into the industry. Such investment might at first be limited to mines with low gold content or which need exploration technology that China does not possess.

"But this depends on the state's final decision on whether to loosen its tight control of the industry," the agency said without elaborating.

Officials say the present increases in gold production are largely due to Beijing's effort to develop new mines in the country's southwest.

China's planned expenditure of up to eight billion yuan (\$1.5 billion) between 1991-96 on developing the gold industry is aimed at boosting output by over 40 per cent compared with the five years between 1986-90.

Much of the new investment is going to three new "gold production bases" in Guangxi, Guizhou and Yunnan in southwest China as well as in central China along the Yangtze River.

China's main gold producing areas are now centred in the country's northeast, including Shandong, Heilongjiang, Liaoning, Jilin and Shaanxi provinces.

Mexico spearheads drive for Latin American economic integration

MEXICO CITY (R) — Mexico, a partner in two new free trade pacts, is leading the way towards economic integration throughout Latin America, regional analysts and diplomats say.

After announcing a North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) with the United States and Canada, Mexico last week signed a pact with five central American nations aimed at creating a free-trade zone of 110 million people by 1996.

Mexico's southern neighbours — Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Costa Rica — are extremely poor compared to its northern NAFTA partners, and less than one per cent of Mexico's trade is with Central America compared to over 60 per cent with the United States and

Canada. But the symbolism was not lost on other, wealthier Latin American countries which covet access to the rich markets of the north — and see Mexico as the way to get to them.

"Now, with NAFTA, Mexico has become Latin America's best gateway to big markets such as that of the United States," one Latin American diplomat told Reuters.

The clearest example, they say, is Chile, which has quadrupled its bilateral trade with Mexico since the two countries signed a free trade accord in 1991 and is expected to be the next member of NAFTA.

"The treaty signed with Mexico, with very similar clauses and norms to those in NAFTA, paves

the way for Chile to enter the northern market," another diplomat from the region said.

After Chile in the queue to join President George Bush's projected free trade zone stretching from Alaska to Tierra Del Fuego would be Venezuela and Colombia.

A treaty aiming to reduce tariff barriers to zero among the so-called group of three — Mexico, Venezuela and Colombia — should be signed by the end of this year; the presidents of the three nations say.

President Carlos Salinas de Gortari's free market vision does not stop there, either.

Mr. Salinas and Argentina's President Carlos Menem agreed at a recent Iberoamerican summit in Madrid to "start talks soon

towards a free trade accord between Argentina and Mexico, which could itself become a basis for a regional free trade accord between Mercosur and North America," a source said.

But despite such optimism, others see Mercosur — an alliance between Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay aimed at creating a common market by 1995 — as a major fly in the ointment for full North and Latin American integration.

"It would place a corset on negotiations with Mexico," one diplomat said, referring to binding bilateral accords between its members. "The members of Mercosur have to respect a series of commitments to other nations which will be difficult to get round."

Price collapse hits Chad cotton industry

NDJAMENA (R) — The collapse in world commodity prices has knocked the stuffing out of Chad's cotton industry, forcing layoffs and factory closures on the state-owned monopoly Cotontchad.

Executives at the company, which accounts for 70 per cent of the desperately poor African country's export earnings, say Cotontchad has abandoned its original target of raising annual seed cotton production to 200,000 tonnes.

With world cotton prices falling 22 per cent in the past year alone, Cotontchad is losing more than 100 francs CFA (40 U.S. cents) on every kilogramme of cotton it sells. Company officials are now aiming for smaller harvests and a lower cost price to make Chad's cotton more competitive on the international market.

"Given the current crisis, we expect to cut our production. And it's clear that we'll be forced to reduce our workforce to match, and bring our cost price down," Cotontchad Managing Director Haroun Kabadi told Reuters in an interview.

"We must pare everything to the bone," he pointed out.

Mr. Kabadi expects to close between one and two of the country's eight ginning factories, laying off between 300 and 400 of Cotontchad's 3,000 staff, in addition to 200 already laid off this year. In the past layoffs were seasonal, this time, Kabadi says,

they will be for good.

Cotontchad, which saw a 2.7 million franc CFA (\$10,800) profit from 1989-90, expects 1990-91 results to register a deficit when they are published, and losses in 1991-92 to be even more serious.

Mr. Kabadi declines to put a figure to expected losses, but one of the donors backing a restructuring programme say 1990-91 losses were probably around two billion francs CFA (\$8 million) and 1991-92 losses will probably be in the region of three billion CFA (\$12 million).

Cotontchad executives are almost grateful that poor weather conditions look set to reduce this year's crop, planted in May and June and harvested from November to December, limiting their losses. Scarce rain has delayed planting and the 1992 seed cotton harvest is expected to total 120-150,000 tonnes, compared to last year's record 174,500.

Cotton, grown in the well-watered southern plains of this desert country, was introduced under French colonialism. Legend has it that, unable to impose taxes on a population of subsistence farmers, the French brought in a cash crop to create a taxable economy.

After independence the Chadian government took over, and Cotontchad is responsible for all production, ginning and marketing.

The state now owns 75 per cent of Cotontchad, with another 17

per cent belonging to the Compagnie Francaise pour Le Developpement des Fibres Textiles and the rest in the hands of local banks and France's Caisse Centrale de la Cooperation Economique.

Plagued by droughts and a simmering civil war that occasionally swept far enough south to stop harvesting, Cotontchad began registering enormous losses in the mid 1980s, as mismanagement, corruption and falling world commodity prices began to take their toll.

In 1986 international donors stepped in, launching a \$100-million restructuring programme which nearly halved Cotontchad's workforce, selling assets, closing factories and halting subsidies to farmers.

The programme, funded by the World Bank, African Development Bank, Caisse Centrale and Dutch and Swiss governments, cut the cost price to 484 francs CFA (\$1.94) per kilogramme from a previous 1,000 CFA (\$4)

and was hailed as a model of what restructuring could do.

Cotontchad now stand in need of a new shot in the arm, and part of a 100-million-French franc (\$20 million) aid agreement France signed last month with the government will be devoted to getting the key industry back into competitive shape.

But even Mr. Kabadi admits that the company, which exports to around 20 countries including Germany, Portugal and Japan, suffers from an inbuilt handicap — its geographical isolation.

A landlocked country twice the size of Texas, with only 250 kilometres of tarred road, Chad must send its processed cotton fibre 1,500 kilometres by road and rail to the nearest port — Douala in neighbouring Cameroon.

"Our transport costs are amongst the highest in the world," acknowledges Mr. Kabadi. "But there isn't a single African country today that isn't making a loss on cotton."

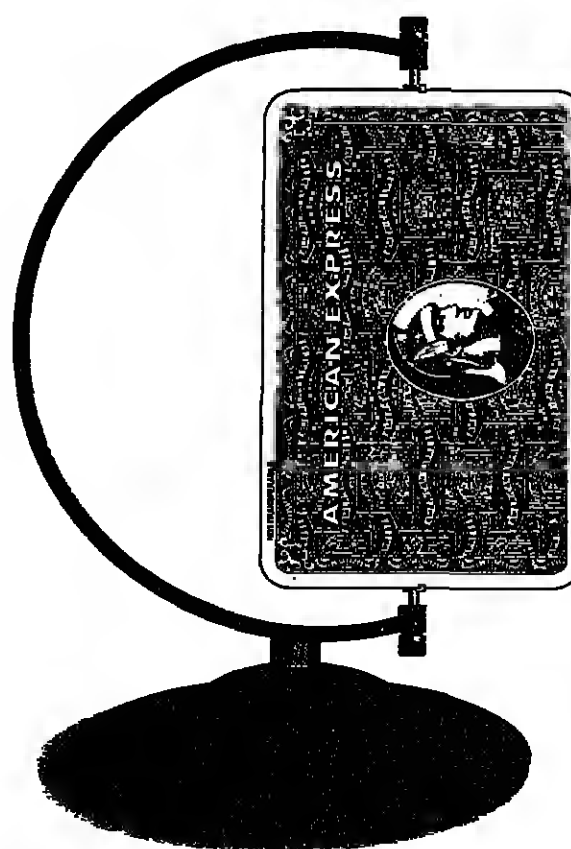
Taiwan export orders surge

TAIPEI (R) — Foreign orders for Taiwanese goods rebounded to \$6.8 billion in July, climbing 7.5 per cent from a year earlier and up 0.5 per cent from June, the economics ministry has said. In the first seven months of this year, export orders rose 7.6 per cent from a year earlier to \$46.4 billion. Export orders had slowed in recent months because of the

weak global economy and the rise of the Taiwan dollar. The local currency hit a record high of 24.5070 against the U.S. dollar on July 9. But stronger demand from Hong Kong, the main conduit for Taiwan's booming trade with China, as well as demand from the United States and Japan helped orders to recover in July, a senior ministry official said.

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Rivals battle for control of Sarajevo; dozens die in fighting

SARAJEVO (R) — Mortars pounded Sarajevo Sunday as Muslims and Serbs battled for control of the Bosnian capital ahead of London peace talks this week.

A dozen bombs exploded close to the presidential building and a department store. Street battles raged in the suburb of Hrasno. The besieged city, its streets deserted, has experienced four days of heavy bombardment in which scores of people have died and buildings set ablaze.

Sarajevo Radio said at least 52 people had been killed since noon Friday and that the death toll was expected to rise as other casualties were discovered.

An international conference on Yugoslavia, co-sponsored by the European Community and the United Nations, opens in London Wednesday.

The new commander of international peacekeeping forces in Sarajevo appealed to rival Serb and Muslim forces to honour the U.N. flag.

"Ours is a humanitarian mission and we are suffering," said Egyptian Brigadier-General Hossein Ali Abdul Razik, 48, head of the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in the city.

Two British royal engineers were wounded in the hills above the Serb district of Ilidza and two French soldiers were treated for minor injuries caused by mortar fire on the U.N. Headquarters, U.N. officials said.

UNPROFOR said the airport — delivery point for relief supplies for 380,000 trapped residents — was closed for half an hour in mid-morning because of mortar and artillery crossfire.

Russia said it would support tough measures by the U.N. Security Council to protect peacekeeping forces in former Yugoslavia.

The Foreign Ministry in Moscow said it was seriously concerned by reports that two members of the Ukrainian battalion serving in Sarajevo had been killed and eight wounded.

More than 8,000 people have been killed and almost two mil-



Civilians run for cover across the street during fighting in Sarajevo

lion displaced in four months of conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina, where Muslims and Croats are fighting Serb forces opposed to the republic's independence from Yugoslavia.

Bosnian government sources said the Muslims might be launching an offensive to try to break the siege of Sarajevo with the help of Croat forces.

The Bosnian Serbs' News Agency SRNA said the Muslim forces had launched an all-out offensive to gain advantage before the London conference.

It said Serb positions in Rajlovac, Tvrđine, Tilav, Trebević, Ilidza, Hadzici, Vogosca, Iljaci, Kasindol and Vojkovice were severely bombed Saturday.

It accused the Muslim forces of deploying an artillery battery near the UNPROFOR headquarters to provoke the Serbs into retaliation which would "be later blamed on the Serbs as an attack on the U.N."

Doctors in the Kosovo Hospital, which suspended operations and was running on its last supply of fuel for power generators, reported three dead and 40 wounded in the preceding five hours,

mostly from fighting in Ilidza.

The Serb officer in charge at Ilidza said: "We could fight harder but our politicians tell us only to defend ourselves."

Meanwhile, a German television team in Serbia was beaten and detained and the cameraman jailed by a military tribunal, the ZDF Television network said Sunday.

Bonn's Foreign Ministry said the German embassy in Belgrade was demanding an explanation from Yugoslavia, the federation that now consists of Serbia and Montenegro after other republics broke away.

"If it turns out that a German national is being detained illegally, we will demand his immediate release," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Cameraman Hermann Wohlberg and reporter Christoph Maria Froehder were dragged from their car Saturday and badly beaten by Yugoslav border guards and soldiers near the Serbian border with Bulgaria, a ZDF Foreign News Desk editor told reporters.

"The cameraman was jailed

indefinitely by a military tribunal for alleged resistance against the state," Ulrich Kienzel said.

"Froehder was marched to the border at gunpoint and forced out of the country," Mr. Kienzel said he spoke to Mr. Froehder by telephone after his expulsion to Bulgaria early Sunday.

The television network, alerted by Mr. Froehder, informed the Foreign Ministry in Bonn, where a spokesman said the case was being investigated.

"Germany's representative is at the Belgrade Foreign Ministry seeking an explanation," the spokesman said.

Mr. Froehder and Mr. Wohlberg were on a freelance assignment for ZDF to film alleged violations of a United Nations embargo against Serbia.

"They were returning from Belgrade where they had filmed a Russian ship unloading cargo despite the embargo," Mr. Kienzel said. Mr. Wohlberg's film had been seized by Yugoslav officials.

The incident happened near the eastern Serbian city of Zaječar, where Mr. Froehder said Mr. Wohlberg was locked in the city jail.

Canadian leaders strike deal with Quebec

OTTAWA (R) Canada's political leaders struck a deal with French-speaking Quebec on far-reaching constitutional changes aimed at keeping the country united.

The accord will overhaul the 125-year-old Canadian confederation by reforming parliament and sharing out federal powers with the 10 provinces in a move to meet Quebec's demands for more autonomy.

"Quebec has made unprecedented gains," Prime Minister Brian Mulroney told a news conference. "We have a fair and honourable compromise that will strengthen Canada."

The agreement is expected to end years of uncertainty over whether Quebec will remain in Canada, but must now be ratified by parliament and the provincial legislatures.

The historic deal, which ended six months of nationwide consultations, grants self-rule to Canada's 750,000 natives and Inuit (Eskimos).

Quebec won a guarantee of 25 per cent of the seats in Canada's House of Commons to ally its fear of being swamped by English-speaking Canada due to a declining birth rate.

Canada's appointed Senate will become an elected body with equal representation for all provinces, a key demand made by western Canada in return for granting Quebec special powers.

Quebec obtained constitutional recognition as a distinct society within Canada, ensuring the survival of the French language and culture, along with its different civil code. It also won powers to veto future changes to federal institutions and the creation of new provinces.

"I'm very pleased with the results," Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa said at the end of five days of tough negotiations.

"Canada is on the way to stability after two years of uncertainty... those Quebecers who believe in peace and prosperity will be happy (with this accord)," he added.

The reforms will shift federal powers to the provinces, giving them exclusive jurisdiction over mining, forestry, tourism, urban affairs, housing and recreation.

They also commit Ottawa to enter agreements with the provinces on culture, immigration, telecommunications, labour training and regional development which will transfer billions of dollars in funds and thousands of civil service jobs.

Mr. Mulroney failed to get more than a verbal commitment from the provinces to pull down their internal trade barriers, which federal officials complain are greater than those between European Community members.

Mr. Mulroney is expected to call a national referendum on the reform package ahead of a vote scheduled in Quebec in late October in which Quebecers will decide on their future relation with Canada.

The reforms were necessary because Quebec has refused since 1982 to sign Canada's constitution until it contained guarantees to preserve its culture and share of power.

A previous attempt to resolve the dispute, known as the Meech Lake Accord, collapsed in 1990 when a native leader blocked approval in the Manitoba provincial legislature, fueling strong separatist sentiment in Quebec.

Azeri jets kill dozens of Armenians in Karabakh

MOSCOW (R) — Armenian reports accused Azerbaijan of launching fresh bombing raids on the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh Sunday and said dozens of civilians had been killed in the past two days.

A spokesman for the Karabakh Committee, which represents ethnic Armenians in the enclave, said bomb attacks by Azeri SU-24 and SU-25 planes killed 15 people in the regional capital Stepanakert and several more in the nearby town of Shusha.

The Armenian News Agency Snark said the Sunday morning raids raised the weekend Armenian death toll to more than three dozen civilians, with about 200 wounded.

"The main victims were old people, women and children. Many of them remain under the rubble of destroyed buildings, the clearing of which is made more difficult by the panic which has gripped people," the agency said.

"It cannot be ruled out that enemy planes will appear in the sky at any moment with their deadly cargo," it added.

Azerbaijan has made no statement on the reports. More than 2,000 people have been killed in four years of fighting between the former Soviet republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The conflict is mainly in and around Nagorno-Karabakh, an Armenian-populated enclave within Azerbaijan. But it has spread to wide areas along the border between the two Caucasian neighbours, both members of the Commonwealth of Independent States which replaced the old Soviet Union.

The Karabakh Committee spokesman said 13 people, fewer than initially feared, had been

killed in an earlier Azeri bombing raid Saturday on a hotel in Stepanakert. Previous reports had spoken of "many dozens" killed.

He said more than 100 people had been wounded in the attack on the hotel, which housed ethnic Armenian refugees from several parts of Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh.

The spokesman said authorities in Nagorno-Karabakh held Russia responsible for the attacks because it had handed large quantities of former Soviet arms and equipment, including more than 50 military planes, to the Azeris.

Commonwealth Television showed footage of Azeri planes dropping what it said were half-tonne bombs on Stepanakert.

A string of Armenian victories earlier this year succeeded for a time in driving enemy forces out of Nagorno-Karabakh, a mountainous enclave surrounded by Azeri territory.

But Azerbaijan has since seized the initiative, regaining a foothold in the territory and capturing Armenian land near its own western border. Peace negotiations and several attempted ceasefires have foundered.

In a separate development, ITAR-TASS News Agency quoted Armenia's prime minister as saying Russia has agreed in talks last week to open a credit line securing the delivery of heating oil and other types of fuel to Armenia.

The country's economy, dependent on deliveries of energy and many raw materials via Azerbaijan, has been hard hit by the undeclared war over Nagorno-Karabakh, with fuel shortages leading to factory closures and frequent power cuts.

2 missing, 2 die after liner sinks in Malacca Straits

PORT DICKSON, Malaysia (R) — A Greek-registered liner on a "cruise to nowhere" sank Sunday after colliding with a Taiwanese fishing boat in the Malacca Straits, leaving two dead and two others missing, rescuers said.

"Only two have not been accounted for and a rescue operation is still on foot then," said Subhumi Abdullah, harbor master of the south west coastal town of Port Dickson where rescue efforts were co-ordinated.

Mr. Subhumi said initial fears of a major disaster, with over 120 people thought missing, subsided after authorities received full details from two ships that rescued most of the survivors of the 13,000-tonne Royal Pacific.

The Royal Pacific sank within minutes after it collided with the Taiwanese vessel Terfu 51 at around 3 a.m. (1900 GMT Saturday) off Port Dickson in the busy straits separating Malaysia and the Indonesian island of Sumatra.

"The (cruise) ship is a total loss," Mr. Subhumi said but the Taiwanese vessel was still afloat and its 24-man crew were safe.

The Taiwanese vessel rammed into the side of the cruise ship, leaving a gaping hole "big enough for two buses to pass through," a Malaysian rescue official said.

Mr. Subhumi said 196 passengers and crew were rescued by a Bahamas-registered dry cargo vessel, Marisa, and another 325 saved by the Russian-owned container ship Chapaevsk.

He said both ships were taking the survivors, mostly Singaporeans, to the island republic, where the Royal Pacific had sailed from Friday on what was advertised as "a cruise to nowhere."

It was due to return Sunday night.

Besides the 521 people plucked from the ocean by the two ships, Malaysian rescuers also recovered two bodies and rescued nine others, including four crew members.

Lloyd's shipping intelligence of London initially reported that 600 people were on board the Royal Pacific.

Most of the passengers were Singaporeans, but the ship also carried 12 Malaysians, 12 Britons, nine Americans, eight Indonesians, six Australians, five Indonesians, three Taiwanese and three Germans, the Port of Singapore Authority (PSA) said.

There were also passengers from New Zealand, China, France, Thailand, the Philippines and Japan, PSA said in a statement.

An Indonesian crew member, Mohammad Shahrudin, told reporters that panic ensued after the collision which caused the ship to sink within minutes.

"I was sleeping when I was woken up by a loud noise and the ship was shaking. There was a lot of screaming and within minutes the ship was going down," said Mohammad Shahrudin, 42.

He said he put on a life-jacket and jumped overboard and was adrift at sea for several hours before he was picked up.

The cruise ship may have sunk within 15 minutes of the collision, agents for the ship told a news conference in Singapore.

Negotiator pessimistic over Khmer Rouge

BANGKOK (R) — A senior Japanese official trying to persuade Khmer Rouge guerrillas to implement Cambodian peace accords said he was not optimistic of success.

Tadashi Ikeda, chief of the Japanese Foreign Ministry's Asia Department met Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan and Thai officials for more than four hours of talks in Bangkok Saturday night.

Mr. Ikeda told Japanese journalists afterwards: "I am not optimistic, since it will be difficult to get the agreement of the other factions to the Khmer Rouge proposal."

The Khmer Rouge is refusing to implement the Cambodian peace agreement signed last October because it says the way it is being interpreted by the U.N. peacekeeping operation favours the Vietnamese-installed government in Phnom Penh.

'Che' Guevara predicted fall of communism

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Cuba's revolutionary hero Ernesto "Che" Guevara predicted the fall of communism in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, a former collaborator was quoted as saying in a news report.

Guevara, who fought alongside Fidel Castro in Cuba's revolution, was critical of Soviet-style communism because he believed it would lead inevitably to capitalism, Angel Gomez Trueba told the official Communist Party organ Granma.

Mr. Gomez Trueba was Guevara's deputy when he headed Cuba's Industry Ministry. In the interview reported by Prensa Latina, Cuba's official news agency, he said Guevara thought many economic measures adopted in the Soviet Union were wrong. The report was monitored in Mexico City.

The Argentine-born Guevara left Castro's government and went to Bolivia to try to foment a guerrilla war. He is a national hero in Cuba after being killed by the Bolivian government in 1967.

S. Korean minister in China to set up ties

PEKING (R) — South Korea's foreign minister arrived in Peking Sunday as China and its cold war enemy prepared to establish diplomatic relations, ending four decades of hostility and breaking Seoul's ties with an angry Taiwan.

Lee Sang-Ok stepped off a special Asiana Airlines flight at Peking's airport reserved for dignitaries and was met by a senior Chinese Foreign Ministry official. The two talked for about 25 minutes in a VIP room.

Later Sunday, Mr. Lee and Chinese counterpart Qian Qichen shook hands warmly and posed for photographers as they sat down to a round of talks at the Diaoyutai State Guest House.

"The normalisation of relations between the two countries is good for the people of the two countries and will contribute to peace and prosperity of the world, and especially has significance for the reunification of the Korean peninsula," Mr. Qian said.

Expectations that the two would sign a protocol Monday to establish diplomatic ties was heightened when a Chinese Foreign Ministry official told reporters: "At 9:00 a.m. Monday an important event will take place at Diaoyutai."

The official Chinese press said on Mr. Lee's three-day visit. The People's Daily Sunday said only: "During the visit, the two foreign ministers will hold talks on normalising relations between the two countries."

When the link on the communication is dry, the book will be closed on China's Korean War role when it fought side-by-side with Communist ally North Korea

against South Korea in the early 1950s.

It will also spell the end to South Korea's relations with Taiwan, the island nation's sole Asian diplomatic tie.

Taiwan's Foreign Minister Frederic Chen said Saturday that Taipei would break ties with South Korea when Seoul established official relations with China.

Mr. Chen, who said Mr. Lee told Taiwan of South Korea's intention to normalise relations with Peking, announced Taipei would also cancel all trade privileges to Seoul and suspend bilateral air links.

What is not clear is how North Korea will react to what Pyongyang no doubt sees as a betrayal by China, its closest comrade.

North Korea, whose economy is in shreds after a withdrawal of aid from the former Soviet Union, is not likely to be pushed aside by its main benefactor Peking, diplomats said.

But it will be pushed to improve ties with South Korea now that China has done so, they said.

The agreement Mr. Lee and Mr. Qian will sign will include the establishment of ambassadorial-level ties, South Korea's recognition of the one-China policy, maintaining neighbourly ties and China's support for inter-Korean efforts to solve the Korean dispute, the South Korean Agency Yonhap said.

The two sides already conduct substantial trade, with about \$5.8 billion in 1991 against \$3.8 billion in 1990. China ran a \$65 million surplus with South Korea last year.

Children are on top of Allen's reason for living

DUBLIN (R) — Woody Allen says children are top of the list as his reason for living.

He spoke in a press interview here that preceded his breakup with actress-girlfriend Mia Farrow over an affair with her adopted daughter.

The 56-year-old American film director and comedian said he could even imagine making a film without Farrow because "Mia doesn't like to work all that much, so I'd go ahead without hesitation."

In a real-life drama that mirrored his quirky autobiographical films, Allen has acknowledged a current affair with Farrow's adopted 21-year-old daughter Soon-Yi Previn.

She is one of nine children adopted by Allen's former lover. Farrow, mother, Maureen O'Sullivan, best known for her screen roles as Tarzan's mate Jane, called Allen "a desperate and evil man."

An ugly custody battle was launched with the revelation that Connecticut police are investigating allegations that Allen sexually abused his and Farrow's adopted 7-year-old daughter, Dylan, an accusation he has angrily denied.

The Irish Times interview with Allen on a recent holiday visit to Ireland was published this weekend — rich with ironies as it was conducted before the couple's announced breakup.

Duchess of York leaves castle with children

LONDON (R) — The Duchess of York, disgraced wife of Britain's Prince Andrew, left Queen Elizabeth's Scottish castle with her children Sunday. Buckingham Palace said.

The Duchess, 32, at the centre of a scandal over pictures showing her topless with an American businessman at a French villa, boarded a plane for London with her two daughters.

The former Sarah Ferguson, widely known still as "Fergie", had been staying with other members of the royal family on holiday in Scotland since newspapers around the world published the intimate photos.

Sunday papers carried more pictures of Fergie and Texan businessman Johnny Bryan kissing and cuddling during a holiday in a villa in St. Tropez.

A palace spokesman confirmed her departure but could not give details of her travel plans. He said she had left Balmoral Castle as planned after a scheduled six-day visit.

Bush, Clinton campaign hard as gap narrows in polls

WOODSTOCK, Georgia (R) — President George Bush, buoyed by opinion polls showing him narrowing the popularity gap with Bill Clinton in the wake of the Republican national convention, went vote-hunting on the Arkansas governor's home turf in the southern states.

At a rain-soaked outdoor rally outside Atlanta, Mr. Bush sought to identify himself with southern values of family pride, deep religious belief and service in the military in a bid to keep Mr. Clinton from stealing support in the "sunbelt."

The Democratic challenger Saturday defended his stance on the 1991 Gulf war against Iraq. Criticised by Mr. Bush as indecisive, Mr. Clinton claimed Mr. Bush had distorted his position in order to tout his own foreign policy credentials.

The governor Friday lashed out at the president as a "desperate candidate who would say anything to win reelection."

At his rally, Mr. Bush coupled his burrah-for-apple-pie rhetoric with biting criticism of his Democratic rival, painting Mr. Clinton as an out-of-step liberal who would team up with the "grid-

locked liberal democratic Congress" to burden the country with more taxes and government spending.

The Nov. 3 election is "a choice between different agendas... and it's a choice about the character of the man that you want to lead this great nation for the next four years," Mr. Bush said.

Most analysts expect a very close overall election outcome despite widespread public discontent with Mr. Bush over a sluggish economy. Their views are supported by new polls which show a considerable tightening of the race.

A Newsweek poll taken after the Republican convention that ended last Thursday in Houston showed Mr. Bush trailing Mr. Clinton by 14 percentage points, an improvement from the 20 per cent gap that existed a few weeks ago.

A Time-CNN poll released Saturday showed Mr. Bush cutting Mr. Clinton's lead to 11 percentage points, and a survey conducted by the Los Angeles Times showed Mr. Bush behind by eight per cent.

"The polls look very good.

There's a range of them, but they all show that we're getting very close," White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said.

Speaking to another huge, friendly crowd in Hoover, Alabama, the 68-year-old president also lashed out at the press, saying: "They don't know good news when they see it."

Mr. Bush's salvos were mild after Representative Newt Gingrich, who suggested in a warm-up speech that the Democratic Party espoused the same family values as filmmaker Woody Allen, who has acknowledged having a love affair with the adopted daughter of his longtime companion, Mia Farrow.

"Watch the Woody Allen case and you measure it," he said.

The conservative Georgia lawmaker also asserted that Mr. Clinton had "a psychological need to pander to the worst instincts" of those from whom he sought support.

"This is not George Bush's campaign. This is a campaign of the American people against an increasingly weird (Democratic) Party," Mr. Gingrich said.

After defending his Gulf war

position, Mr. Clinton hit back at Mr. Bush on the same issue, which Mr. Bush has portrayed as a major accomplishment of his administration.

"I don't see that President Bush has any great thing to brag about," Mr. Clinton said, alleging that Mr. Bush "let the situation in Iraq deteriorate terribly."

Mr. Clinton, joined by running mate Al Gore and their wives, later set out on a three-state weekend bus tour that took them through the "rust belt" region of Ohio, traditional Democrat country which of late has voted Republican.

Mr. Bush, who was slated to end day two of his first post-convention campaign swing with Evangelical Christian leaders in Dallas, focused on the south to try to preserve a pro-Republican tilt in the area that should give him an electoral vote advantage.

Under the indirect U.S. system of choosing a president, it is possible to finish second in popular votes and yet still win the election by amassing more electoral votes, which are awarded on a state-by-state, winner-take-all basis.

COLUMN 8

China's swimmers 'secret weapon' — a tonic

PEKING (R) — China's Olympic medal-winning swimmers had a secret weapon which aided their success — a medicinal tonic made from an ancient recipe, a newspaper said Sunday. The medicine, made from a witches' brew of toad skin, birds' nests and other arcane ingredients, passed doping tests administered by the International Olympic Committee in Barcelona, the Guangming Daily said. "It increases their achievements by 100 per cent," the report said. Chinese swimmers scooped up three golds and a silver at the summer Olympics which ended earlier this month. The liquid helps to battle fatigue and build stamina, while containing no stimulants, the newspaper said. The team started taking the tonic in April when the tonic's Chinese manufacturer, Kangda Medical Development Company, donated 10 cartons. Men swimmers received 10 boxes each, while the women got five each. "Thanks to this tonic, none of them fell ill despite 12 weeks of hard training," the newspaper said.

Canada is used to snow — but in August?

LETHBRIDGE, Alberta (AP) — Residents of southern Alberta woke up Saturday to a blanket of snow and hushy weather only days after record-high temperatures. Environment Canada issued a heavy snowfall advisory for residents of Medicine Hat, Lethbridge and Crossman Pass. It said there were reports of 17 centimetres (6.8 inches) of snow on the ground in Pincher Creek and 10 to 15 centimetres (four to six inches) in Medicine Hat. On Friday, Edmonton and communities north of the city were hit with heavy wet snow that beat crops over and snapped branches on trees. The weather office forecast more snow and freezing temperatures for the next few days. Rick Shewchuk, said the Lethbridge Weather Office, said cold air from the Arctic islands was to blame for the wintery weather.

Police quiz ex-deputy speaker on sex tape

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Malaysian police have questioned the former deputy speaker of parliament for his alleged involvement in a pornographic videotape, state-radio quoted a senior police officer as saying. D.P. Vijandran, accused by the opposition of videotaping himself having sex with women, was quizzed by the Serious Crime Branch in the capital Kuala Lumpur, Criminal Investigation Department Director Mohammad Zaman Khan said. An opposition leader, Karpal Singh, stunned parliament last month by handing to the house a videotape he said featured Mr. Vijandran, the former secretary-general of the Malaysian Indian Congress, a component party of the ruling national coalition. Mr. Singh accused Vijandran of videotaping himself performing unnatural acts with various women, adding that the recordings were done without their knowledge. Mr. Singh said 11 videotapes and 2,000 photographs were stolen from Mr. Vijandran's house in 1988 but police had destroyed the tapes recovered from burglars.

Himalaya survivor plans to return to cave with wife

BRISBANE (AP) — A man who survived 43 days in the Himalayas with virtually no survival equipment and only snow and two candy bars for food said he wants to spend a night with his bride in the cave where he nearly died. Australian James Scott was a 23-year-old medical student when he became lost in a blizzard while on a vacation trek in Nepal. Mr. Scott was discovered, he was evacuated to a hospital in his hometown of Brisbane, where he spent months recovering from malnutrition. He married his girlfriend, Gaye, in June. Mr. Scott said he planned to soon revisit Nepal with his bride. "I want to spend a night up there (in the cave) with Gaye just to see how it feels," he told the Sunday Mail newspaper. "We'd be sitting up there with a fire and with food and all that. It would be completely different to how things were last time. She's really curious about it. I guess everyone who knows me is curious to see how I spent that six weeks and Gaye is intensely curious to see what conditions I lived under."